

NEWS SUMMARY

GENERAL

Thorpe may defy Steel

Former Liberal leader Mr. Jeremy Thorpe is expected to defer request from party chiefs to stay away from next week's Liberal conference in Southport.

The move, which is to have been made first by party leader Mr. David Steel and endorsed by Liberal party chairman Lord Evans of Clapham, is the latest move by the party to distance itself from Mr. Thorpe, in the light of charges he now faces.

By going to Southport, Mr. Thorpe may hope to appeal to his traditional supporters. His attendance would be backed by his local North Devon Liberal Party. Back Page

Suspect isolated

Mrs. Cheryl Hall, 23, who works at the Birmingham hospital where smallpox victim Mrs. Janet Parker was first admitted, went into isolation after developing a rash. A Birmingham inquest found that smallpox expert Professor Henry Bedson killed himself after Mrs. Parker contracted the disease.

Reprisal fear

As Rhodesian troops hunted nationalist guerrillas who mortared Umtali, President Kaunda of Zambia confirmed that he believed Rhodesia was planning to attack his country, in reprisal for the missile attack on an Air Rhodesia Viscount. Page 2

City threatened

As troops and civilians fought to save India's historic city of Allahabad, threatened by rising floods, Prime Minister Mr. James Callaghan sent a message of sympathy to the flood victims via Indian Premier Mr. Morarji Desai. Page 2

Peace talks

President Carter held late night talks with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat as the Camp David Middle East peace summit moved towards a working weekend. In Beirut, Syrian peacekeeping forces pounded Christian districts with heavy artillery. Page 2

Court cleared

The Old Bailey secret trial continued behind closed doors when tape recordings of an alleged interview between a former Army intelligence corporal and two journalists were played to the jury. Page 2

Canals scheme

Environment Secretary Mr. Peter Shore approved a £10m British Waterways Board scheme to improve the canal network between Doncaster and Rotherham. Page 3

Killing studied

The Director of Public Prosecutions is to study a file on the killing of a teenage boy in Ulster by two SAS men as they lay in wait near an arms cache. Page 15

Airport vigil

Police stepped up security after radicals severed cable lines and paralysed 30,000 telephone and telex links in a fresh sabotage attempt against Tokyo's new international airport. Page 15

Briefly...

Former Beatle George Harrison was married in secret at Henley-on-Thames Register Office to Olivia Arias.

The Who drummer Keith Moon died from drugs overdose, a post-mortem revealed.

More than 50 people were arrested in clashes between police and anti-Government demonstrators in Karachi.

Darwin Watson was thrown out of an official dinner for Australian Premier Malcolm Fraser after she took a tomato off his plate and ate it. Ricardo Zamora, one of the world's greatest goalkeepers, died in Barcelona, aged 77.

U.S. businessman Jay Crawford, given a suspended sentence in Moscow for currency offences, left Moscow for the West. Page 14

CHIEF PRICE CHANGES YESTERDAY

(Prices in pence unless otherwise indicated)	Metal Box	374 + 16
Rises	Nw Throgmorton Cap.	151 + 10
Barclays Bank	358 + 10	45 + 4
Blue Circle	300 + 13	344 + 12
Booker McConnel	284 + 10	318 + 12
British Sugar	332 + 7	318 + 5
Brown (J)	478 + 12	108 + 12
Collaps (Wm) A	115 + 5	320 + 10
Distillers	207 + 7	248 + 5
Dowty	297 + 12	211 + 41
Eastwood (J. B.)	198 + 13	211 + 41
Glaxo	228 + 7	271 + 12
GUS A	244 + 5	318 + 12
Hawker Siddeley	264 + 11	244 + 12
Hunting Assoc. Inds	328 + 11	328 + 12
ICI	410 + 5	380 + 15
ICL	388 + 10	444 + 12
Lookers	65 + 7	880 + 50
AL L Holdings	195 + 11	St. Helena

Scornful Thatcher attacks PM's survival tactics

BY RUPERT CORNWELL, LOBBY STAFF

Mrs. Margaret Thatcher last night accused the Prime Minister of scorning the national interest by drifting on aimlessly. His "broken-backed Government" was bent on surviving by day-to-day deals with minor parties, she said.

As politicians and party leaders collected their thoughts after Mr. Callaghan's surprise decision to avoid an October election, the Opposition leader insisted that although he had put off the day of reckoning, voters sooner or later would seize the chance to eject Labour from office.

But last night the Scottish Nationalist Party, whose 11 MPs at Westminster offer Mr. Callaghan his most realistic chance of surviving the vital Queen's Speech division, remained split between those who want to support the Government to secure the devolution referendum as soon as possible, and those who wish to bring about a general election.

At a three-hour meeting the SNP's National Executive Committee had still not decided what to do. A statement made clear there was no question of the party entering into any pact with either major party, formal or otherwise, but would not spell out the terms on which the Government might be supported.

Instead, the party reiterated its concern with the unemployment situation in Scotland, the continued "embasement" by London of Scottish oil revenues, and the continued denial of self-government for Scotland. The MPs would decide their attitude of our problems this winter

Continued on Back Page

speech division, on its merits. But it looks certain that Plaid Cymru will back Labour at least until the referendum is held.

Mrs. Thatcher said in a television broadcast that Labour had lost any claim to enjoy the nation's confidence.

The Prime Minister claimed that it was best for Britain if the Government succeeded.

But he warned that Labour in office had too often gone to the country soon after its efforts to restore Britain's fortune had begun to show results. It would not make that mistake this time.

Continued on Back Page

U.S. wholesale prices fall slightly

BY JUREK MARTIN, U.S. EDITOR

FURTHER EVIDENCE of what could be expected in the second half of the year, largely because of inflationary pressures in the U.S., was provided this morning with the news that wholesale prices fell fractionally last month.

The producer price index for finished goods, successor to the wholesale price index, dropped by 0.1 per cent in August, having gone up by 0.5 and 0.7 per cent respectively in the two previous months. This is the first decline in the index since August 1976.

Inevitably, lower food prices were the principal factor: the food component part of the index dropped by 1.5 per cent, while the price of food at intermediate and crude stages of processing fell by even more. This suggests that continued relief from the farm sector is in store for retail prices in the months ahead.

More encouraging was the fact that the index for non-food items went up last month by just 0.4 per cent—only half the rate in July.

The Carter Administration has been saying for some months that a lower rate of inflation is the key to economic recovery. It appears that the favoured option of this blueprint is voluntary wage and price guidelines not unlike those used by President Kennedy but backed by some form of limited sanctions. Use of actual controls has been ruled out, as President Carter has said repeatedly, and as his anti-inflation counsellor, Mr. Robert Strauss, reaffirmed today.

On the wages side, labour and management would be asked to limit the size of negotiated settlements in the previous year, say

Continued on Back Page

WASHINGTON, Sept. 8

Michael Blanden writes: The dollar recovered quite sharply yesterday on the encouraging U.S. wholesale price figures and the previous day's news of plans for further support measures announced by Mr. Blumenthal.

Yesterday the Economic Policy Group of principal advisers to the President met under the chairmanship of Mr. Michael Blumenthal, the Treasury Secretary, to consider a draft plan drawn up by sub-cabinet level.

In quiet but steady exchange market dealings the U.S. currency moved back above the DM 2 level against the West German D-Mark, closing in London at DM 2.0015 against DM 1.9875 the previous day.

The dollar picked up against the other main strong currencies, rising to SwFr. 1.6180 compared with SwFr. 1.6160 and to Y192.4 against Y191.

The dollar's trade-weighted depreciation, measured at noon New York time by Morgan Guaranty, narrowed from 5.8 per cent to 5.6 per cent.

The pound kept pace with the dollar and so showed gains on other currencies. It closed in London 10 points down at \$1.3365.

The trade-weighted index of its currencies rose from 62.2 to 62.5.

News Analysis, Page 3

Plessey to axe 1,250 jobs and shut plant

BY ANDREW TAYLOR

PLESSEY is to make 1,250 workers redundant and close one of the two Swindon factories of its loss-making subsidiary, which manufactures record changers and turntables.

The group blamed a slump in world markets for consumer audio electronic equipment and low-price Japanese competition for the further cut at Garrard, which has made pre-tax losses totalling 25.6m since 1973.

Shap Stewards at the

Swindon-based subsidiary, who met management yesterday and are due for a further meeting on Monday, said they were "dumbfounded" and "despondent" about the decision.

The management, however,

was prepared to examine any

proposals to save some of the

jobs.

Since 1973 the workforce at

Swindon has been axed from

almost 4,000 to 1,830. After the

latest cuts there will be only

580 people working at the surviving factory in Newcastle Street.

Demand

Plessey said that it is to axe its music centre business as well as its lower priced record changer and turntable products to concentrate on the top quality end of the market. The decision is expected to reduce output by around two-thirds.

The group said that this latest cut was due to a slump in world demand at a time when Japanese manufacturers had significantly increased sales by maintaining virtually unchanged prices in spite of high rates of inflation and the increased value of the yen, particularly against the U.S. dollar.

More than half Garrard's sales are in the U.S.

Last year Garrard made pre-tax losses of £5.1m on sales of £21.4m. In the first three months of this year Garrard incurred a pre-tax loss of £1m.

Around 600 of the workers affected are full-time staff. The rest are part-time workers. In a letter to employees Garrard chairman and Plessey main board director Mr. W. J. Dabell said that under the existing operation there was no indication that the company would be able to increase its share of the audio market.

He said that there was no practical alternative to the cut-back.

News Analysis, Page 3

Shah's troops open fire on demonstrators

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

TEHRAN, Sept. 8.

IRANIAN army troops today demonstrated came two hours after demonstrators in central Tehran, the state-run radio. Soldiers soon after the Government had moved in and fired tear gas at a imposed martial law in the crowd gathered for a demonstration in the city centre. The crowd broke up into rock-throwing mobs, and the troops opened fire, causing heavy casualties.

At one point, a gang of mostly young Iranians stoned a Post Office near the shooting and collected old shoes from residents to burn in street bonfires.

They shouted "Down with the Shah! Dynasty," and several said that they wanted "an



SHAH OF IRAN:

Ability to rely on troops questioned.

Islamic government" to take the Shah's place.

This means a government dominated by the country's traditional religious leaders who are in the forefront of the opposition movement. One demonstrator said that the people were waiting only for a signal from the religious leaders before launching a full-scale revolution.

However, since they are not armed, their only chance of succeeding in this would be to turn the Army against the Shah, on which explains the repeated slogans "urging brother soldiers" to join them.

Marchers chanted "Death to the Shah" as troops watched with bayonets fixed.

The martial law decision put this capital of more than 4m people under a military governor for the first time in about 25 years. Curfew is from 9 pm to 6 am.

The first test of the announcement, which includes a ban on

ARBURTHNOT IN AMERICA

Here's why you should invest now in the Arbuthnot North American and International Fund

66 Much smaller, but no less successful, has been the Arbuthnot North American Unit Trust, doubling in size to £2.5 million in the last few weeks. It also proudly stands at the head of the one-year performance table, with a rise of 12.5 p.c. in the 12 months to last Friday, which compares with a fall of 8.6 p.c. in the Dow Jones in the same period.

David Collier, London Telegraph, Sept. 6th 1978

66 What's more, one or two of those funds whose portfolios contain a fair share of companies other than the leaders have in fact done remarkably well over the past five weeks. Most notably, Arbuthnot, whose North American and International still tops the one-year performance table, with a gain of 13.4 per cent even though around half of the portfolio (some 90 per cent invested directly into the U.S. markets) is composed of smaller companies.

Arbuthnot's London office, 10th floor, 100 Newgate Street, London EC1R 4BS. Tel: 01-231 5281.

Investment of this fund is partially through a

OVERSEAS NEWS

Lebanese Christians split by fighting

By Ihsan Hijazi

BEIRUT, Sept. 8. LOCKED IN a fierce confrontation with Syrian troops of the Arab Peacekeeping Force, the Lebanese Christian alliance has begun to show serious strains. This is reflected in political divisions, economic and social troubles and a worsening of the growing problems of displaced people.

Heavy artillery exchanges recurred last night between the Syrians and the Christian militias in Beirut's southern and eastern suburbs. It was the second large-scale bombardment there in less than a week. The number of casualties and extent of damage were not immediately known.

[Reuter quotes a Western correspondent who spent the night in the area as saying the fighting began when the militias opened up on Syrian troops with automatic rifles and machine guns. He said the Syrians retaliated at first with light weapons and then used heavy artillery.]

The Christian district of Ain el-Rummaneh, the centre of the tension, is almost empty, with civilians having abandoned their homes and left the shattered quarter to the militias.

Displaced persons from Ain el-Rummaneh only a small part of the 300,000 Christians who had to be re-located in other parts of the country after heavy fighting in their own areas.

Mr. Pierre Gemayel, the leader of the Phalange party, the principal Christian paramilitary organisation, has warned that if the problem of refugees is not solved before the cold weather arrives, an all-out flare-up should be expected.

Businessmen and trade union leaders in the Christian districts have sounded the alarm about what they termed an economic depression if the situation is not remedied quickly.

Conflict was reported to have developed between "doves" and "hawks" in the Christian camp, with the doves urging a compromise with President Sarkis and the Syrians, and the hawks reportedly insisting on the continuation of confrontation and keeping the pot boiling until Israel is in a position to come to their help.

The trauma has affected the Phalange party seriously. There have been unconfirmed reports that two prominent members of the party leadership, Mr. Louis Abu Shara and Mr. George Saadeh, have resigned from the party because they disapprove of the military trend in the party's policy.

Nicaragua protest over priest's arrest

By Joseph Mann

MANAGUA, Sept. 8. A CROWD estimated in the thousands poured into the streets in the city of Masaya south of here this morning to protest at the arrest last night of a Roman Catholic priest. Tensions rose in the cities of Masaya and Esteli as the Nicaraguan national guard continued rounding up politicians, businessmen and youths and carried out a series of searches in homes, schools and even churches. Residents of the two provincial cities feared that serious violence could break out at any time, leading to a confrontation between police and anti-Government protesters.

The Government of President Anastasio Somoza said this morning that the director of the Salesian school Don Bosco in Masaya, Father Jose Maria Pacheco Vasquez, was arrested and a cache of arms was discovered in the parish house next to the school.

Friends told me that several jeeps full of national guardsmen had attacked the Don Bosco school on Wednesday night, shooting hundreds of rounds into the school building and church alongside. They also broke down two doors and entered the school grounds by climbing over a wall. The guard returned last night to conduct another search and to arrest the priest.

Four priests and two students were present at the Wednesday night raid, the fourth time that soldiers had entered the school. The raids were reportedly carried out to search for arms and subversive rebels. The local sources told me that the soldiers themselves threw home-made bombs into the street as they entered the school to give the impression that they were being attacked from within. Priests at the Don Bosco school were reluctant to give their names to the Press, saying that they had been threatened by anonymous callers.

The school's block-long facade was pockmarked with bullet holes and the front door had been smashed in. There were more bullet holes and broken glass inside the building. The church alongside also bore dozens of holes made by high-powered rifle shots. The school's 800 students were not present during the Wednesday night attack and the school was later closed by the Salesian priests because of the frequent raids.

Citibank move for publicity curb

By DAVID LASCELLES

CITIBANK HAS filed a series of motions with the New York Supreme Court seeking curtailment of publicity of evidence relating to a wrongful dismissal suit brought by a former employee, Mr. David Edwards, against the bank. The employee, Mr. Edwards, has alleged in a series of documents exhibits signed by Mr. Edwards when he joined the bank, in which he agrees not to divulge Citibank's confidential information.

The bank's third demand is that all pre-trial hearings and the trial itself be held in camera, and that all documents relating to the case be sealed. The bank asked to conduct an investigation bases this demand on the grounds

that the case constitutes a violation of privacy in that it involves disclosure of trade secrets.

Citibank has also asked the court to order Mr. Edwards not to discuss the case in public or with the media. The motion includes a copy of an agreement signed by Mr. Edwards when he joined the bank in which he

agrees not to divulge Citibank's confidential information.

The bank's main demand is that all pre-trial hearings and the trial itself be held in camera, and that all documents relating to the case be sealed. The bank asked to conduct an investigation

NEW YORK, Sept. 8. Edwards has agreed not to discuss Citibank's business practices with the media.

Mr. Edwards' main allegations, which were made in the court papers, were related to the way that money was transferred from Citibank's European branch to the Nassau branch in order to secure tax advantages.

Citibank has denied Mr.

Edwards' allegations in court papers of its own, and said it conducted an internal investigation before calling in Peat, Marwick, Mitchell to make an outside report. The results of this should be ready later in the autumn, but Citibank has not said whether they will be published.

Total may close Dutch oil refinery

By Charles Batchelor

AMSTERDAM, Sept. 8.

A SECOND European oil refinery is faced with closure following the decision by Occidental Petroleum to shut down its Antwerp installation. The French group Total may be forced to close its Dutch refinery in Flushing unless it can reach some form of downstream co-operation with a chemical company.

Losses from the 6.5m tonne capacity refinery have become too large for Total to continue operating the refinery in its present form, the company said. It is currently working at two-thirds capacity.

Opened in 1974, the plant supplies products to the Dutch market as well as to West Germany and Belgium.

Total refused to say with

which company it is seeking co-operation.

Hoelst Holland has a polycondensates plant at Flushing, but the German-owned company plans to shut this down in view of the difficulties of the European synthetic fibre market. A company spokesman said Hoelst had no plans to link with Total.

A potential partner for the refinery is Dow Chemical which has a chemical installation in Terneuzen across the Westerschelde from Flushing. Total and Dow are linked by a pipeline through which Total supplies naphtha. This contract is due to expire shortly.

Shell Nederland said it was holding talks with Total, and with other refinery operators in Holland, over the problem of over-capacity in Western Europe. These talks have been intensified recently. A Shell spokesman said it was impossible to say whether these talks would lead to any agreement with Total.

Refinery over-capacity forced British Petroleum to close its Rotterdam installation for two months earlier this year, while Shell is considering reducing its 26.5m tonne capacity refinery — the largest in the group — to only 10m tonnes.

Meanwhile, Mr. Jay Crawford, the representative of the Chicago-based firm of International Harvester, left Moscow today after being convicted yesterday of black market currency dealings. He was given a five-year suspended labour camp sentence.

Mr. Crawford consistently denied his guilt and his arrest

was seen by U.S. officials as retaliation for the arrest of two Soviet United Nations employees in May.

Arms talks in Moscow 'useful'

By DAVID SATTER

SOVIET AND U.S. negotiators have completed two days of strategic arms limitation talks, which Western diplomats said had been useful as a step towards reaching a new agreement.

The U.S. team was headed by Mr. Paul Warnke, the chief U.S.

SALT negotiator and the head of the arms control and disarma-

ment agency, who apparently came to Moscow to give Soviet leaders a look at U.S. proposals for resolving the outstanding issues.

He met Mr. Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister. As a result, the talks due to be held by the Soviet "Bukhara bunch," which the Russians do not want counted under strategic weapons ceilings, deployment of new missile systems and the effective date of the new agreement.

The respective negotiating teams included the Geneva SALT delegation chiefs, Ralph Earle and Vladimir Semenov, as well as the Soviet and U.S. military experts, General John Rowley and Colonel-General Ivan Bel'tsky.

Mr. Warnke, who was leaving Moscow today, said the protracted negotiations were "now in the home stretch" and the SALT agreement could be ready well before the end of the year.

The United States has been opposed to increasing what it sees as already inflated IMF salaries. However the suspicion is growing that the U.S. will drop its objections at the October 23 meeting. By then Congress, which also takes a dim view of IMF and World Bank salaries, will be批准 the proposals put in recess and, hopefully, key items of outstanding legislation.

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On Wednesday by Mr. Jacques de Larosiere, the new managing director. This would include approval of the Witteveen supplementary financing facility, give the staff an additional 3% per cent, on top of the 3% per cent which had been enacted into law.

IMF strike fear recedes

By JUREK MARTIN

WASHINGTON, Sept. 8. THE LINGERING threat of a strike action by the staff of the International Monetary Fund to coincide with the organisation's annual meeting later this month was dispelled here this morning.

At a mass meeting, the staff, after deplored the delay in final consideration of their pay claim, agreed to wait until October 23 when the board of directors is due to take a decision on the salary increase.

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Japanese trade chief for China

By CHARLES SMITH, FAR EAST EDITOR

JAPAN'S Minister of International Trade and Industry, Mr. Toshio Komoto, leaves Tokyo for Peking on Monday for a five-day visit awarded in a provisional settlement in the spring. This was accompanied by a warning that "strong staff action" would result if the board decided otherwise.

At a mass meeting, the staff,

simplified, the Western diplomats said.

The talks have made some progress in narrowing differences on the remaining issues in the last year. These are believed to be the Soviet "Bukhara bunch," which the Russians do not want counted under strategic weapons ceilings, deployment of new missile systems and the effective date of the new agreement.

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Chinese trip worries Sofia

By Paul Lendvai

SOFIA, Sept. 8. AMID SIGNS of growing Bulgarian concern and even anger over what Sofia calls "Chinese meddling," Peking is seeking to intensify its economic contacts with Yugoslavia and Romania, Bulgaria's Balkan neighbours.

The recent arrival of the Chinese Finance Minister, Mr. Li Hsien-nien, in Yugoslavia is a signal that both China and Yugoslavia are determined to expand their trade. Contrary to many official statements, however, trade has if anything fallen particularly with regard to Yugoslav exports.

Trade expansion is also to be the main topic during the Chinese official's forthcoming visit to Romania.

However, changes which have taken place in the domestic economy recently, especially the sustained high level of domestic demand, caused the Financial Secretary to be guarded about the longer term economic outlook.

Hong Kong growth hope

By RON RICHARDSON

HONG KONG'S economy should continue to grow strongly in the remainder of 1978 led by higher-than-expected exports and domestic consumption, according to financial Secretary, Mr. Philip Haddon-Cave in a half-yearly economic survey delivered today.

The overall rate of growth of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) should reach about 10 per cent, he said, compared with the forecast of 9 per cent contained in the 1977-78 budget presented in April.

However, changes which have taken place in the domestic economy recently, especially the sustained high level of domestic demand, caused the Financial Secretary to be guarded about the longer term economic outlook.

The destruction done by the

long-term commitments from China on oil imports before the current MITI projection for oil imports of around 430m kilolitres by the mid-1980s turns out to be accurate.

Japanese and Soviet partners have struck natural gas for the first time on the continental shelf off the Soviet Far East island of Sakhalin, Renter reports from Tokyo. They struck oil in their first test drilling in the same area last September.

Japan is anxious to secure long-term commitments from China on oil imports before the current MITI projection for oil imports of around 430m kilolitres by the mid-1980s turns out to be accurate.

Negotiations on what should happen after 1981 were originally not expected for some time, but Japan now seems in a hurry to get Chinese agreement to a sharp expansion of oil shipments during the first half of the 1980s.

He also hinted that the Government is dissatisfied with the continuing low level of interest rates in the colony — the three-month Hong Kong dollar deposit rate is currently 2.5 per cent — and may see some way of more effectively influencing the interest structure.

Reviewing the main components of the economy, Mr. Haddon-Cave said the value of domestic exports now seemed likely to swell by about 7 per cent during 1978 compared with the budget forecast of 5 per cent. This is a result of the continued depreciation of the Hong Kong dollar (on an export-weighted basis, the depreciation is 9.1 per cent since the start of 1977) — maintaining the competitiveness of local manufacturers combined with unexpected growth in the workforce.

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Zambia 'will blame UK' if Rhodesia attacks

By Our Own Correspondent

LUSAKA, Sept. 8.

PRESIDENT Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia said today that he would not rule out inviting forces from outside Africa to help his army to defend the troubled border with Rhodesia and Namibia.

The President, who has made such statements in the past, did not elaborate. He did, however, add that he believes Rhodesia is planning to attack Zambia in reprisal for the shooting down of an Air Rhodesia Viscount aircraft last weekend.

He said Zambia would hold Britain, as the colonial power, "entirely responsible for any attack on us."

Dr. Kaunda met the Press on the eve of a major conference of Zambia's sole party, the United National Independence Party, which seems certain to endorse him as sole candidate for Presidential elections later this year.

Dr. Kaunda also accused Sir Harold Wilson, the former British Prime Minister, of complicity with Rhodesia's white minority in the 1965 unilateral declaration of independence (UDI) and of later knowing that British oil companies were breaking sanctions.

As in the past, Dr. Kaunda said he would not rule out further meetings with Mr. Ian Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, despite the controversy created by last month's secret talks in Zambia between Mr. Smith and Mr. Joshua Nkomo, co-leader of the Patriotic Front nationalist alliance.

But Dr. Kaunda made clear that the "frontline" states — Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia — had agreed not to make contact with Mr. Smith anew without prior consultation among themselves.

Foremost of the three is Herr Heinz Oskar Vetter, head of the Deutsche Gewerkschaftsbund (DGB) — the German equivalent of Britain's TUC. The others are Herr Eugen Loderer, leader of the metalworkers union, IG Metall — with 2.6m members often described as the biggest union in the Western world — and Herr Karl Hauenschild, head of the chemical workers union.

Meanwhile, in a further sign of the gradual intensification of relations between Bonn and Berlin, it was announced that for the first time a Soviet and an East German prove about the right of West Berlin parliamentarians to be part of the European assembly.

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Meanwhile, in

HOME NEWS

Railman appointed chairman of National Freight

BY IAN HARGREAVES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

MR. ROBERT LAWRENCE has been appointed chairman of the National Freight Corporation to succeed Sir Daniel Pettit, who retires at the end of this year.

The appointment of Mr. Lawrence, who is a career railman, to the chairmanship of the state-owned road transport conglomerate is an attempt to re-strengthen links between the public rail and road operators.

The merger weakened last month with the takeover of Freightliners, the container company owned jointly by the corporation and British Rail, to full railways ownership.

Mr. Lawrence, 62, will continue as vice-chairman of British Rail, but will relinquish most of the posts he holds in various railway subsidiaries.

His name emerged as the favoured candidate after a long period of consideration by Mr. William Rodgers, the Transport Secretary. A number of political and trade union candidates were put forward.

Other candidates were the corporation's two most senior executives, Mr. Peter Thompson, chief executive, and Mr. Victor Paige, vice-chairman. Mr. Lawrence's appointment is intended to involve only a two-days-a-week commitment on the understanding that greater responsibility passes to Mr. Paige and Mr. Thompson.

Mr. Lawrence has considerable experience of road transport, having been general manager of British Rail's former sundries division, which in 1968 became part of National Freight under the title Nations Carriers. He

Mr. R. LAWRENCE
Strengthening links

has also been on the freight corporation board for the last 10 years.

Mr. Rodgers also announced yesterday that Sir Humphrey Browne, 67, chairman of the British Transport Docks Board, has agreed to continue in the post for another year from next April.

Other appointments to the freight corporation board announced yesterday are Mr. J. S. Fleming, fellow in Economics at Nuffield College, and Mr. P. H. Spriddell, a director of Marks and Spencer.

Thatcher attacks election bluff

By Ivor Owen, Parliamentary Staff

BY REFUSING to call an autumn General Election, the Prime Minister had ensured that Britain's problems would become worse and that it would take longer to put them right, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, the Conservative leader, said last night.

Replying on radio and television to Mr. Callaghan's "No election" broadcast 24 hours earlier, she said: "But I believe they can be put right once we have a Government that has confidence."

"The confidence of the people and confidence in people. A Government with authority at home and with authority abroad."

After a hesitant, almost breathless, start in which she underlined the fact that a General Election had been expected as much by the Labour Party as by its political opponents, Mrs. Thatcher condemned the Prime Minister's elaborate exercise in bluff and counter-bluff.

Any Government could appear to work up to an election, and then suddenly puncture the balloon," she said. "But no Government worthy of the name with the national interest at heart plays that sort of game with the electorate."

"A simple announcement would have ended the uncertainty months ago. That's what Sir Alec Douglas-Home did in 1964. Mr. Callaghan chose not to do so, but then Mr. Callaghan is not Sir Alec Douglas-Home."

Mrs. Thatcher also contrasted Mr. Callaghan's refusal to call a general election with the decision taken by Mr. Attlee to go to the country in October, 1951, even when his Labour Government still had a majority in the Commons and four years to run.

"For Mr. Attlee, the country came first..." She doubted whether either Sir Alec or Mr. Attlee would have accepted Mr. Callaghan's any time since the war. Since

she accepted that he wanted to go on 1974, food prices have more than doubled. Tax has more than doubled. The Government had lost its majority through a series of by-



March 1 could be poll day on home rule

By Anthony Morton,
Regional Affairs Editor

ALL INDICATIONS last night pointed to an early spring date for the devolution referendum in Scotland and Wales.

Such a long run-up would clearly appeal to Mr. James Callaghan, the Prime Minister. But, after a day in which both parties agonised on the position they should take in the coming session, it was still not clear what line either the ten Scottish National Party or three Plaid Cymru members would take when Parliament reassembled on October 24.

Their problem is compounded by the fact that little adminis-

Murray defends inter-union disputes policy

By ALAN PIKE AND PAULINE CLARK

THE TUC would fight in the High Court to uphold its internal procedures for resolving inter-union disputes, Mr. Len Murray, the general secretary, promised yesterday.

The Engineers' and Managers' Association, is challenging a TUC disputes' committee decision that it cannot recruit senior staff at GEC Reactor Equipment's plant at Wethersfield, near Leicester. The case is likely to be heard this year.

Mr. Simon Petch, deputy general secretary of the EMA, told Congress it had been argued that unions should take the rough with the smooth on disputes' committee awards. His association had received the rough with the rough and saw no sign of the smooth and felt it had to take a different view.

Mr. Murray replied that there was nothing to prevent an affiliated union from going to court, as the EMA was doing, though there was much against it in TUC custom and practice.

The TUC was always a very reluctant litigator, but it would fight this case to uphold the disputes' procedures and the authority of Congress.

Other business dealt with during the last session of Congress yesterday:

● A motion to put pressure on the Government to set up outpatient abortion clinics in each Area Health Authority, to bring about full implementation of the principles of the 1967 Abortion Act.

Dr. Judith Gray, of the Medical Practitioners' Section of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, said that equal pay legislation

MORE HOME NEWS
ON PAGE 15

trative thought in Whitehall has been given to the date for referenda.

The strong supposition that there would be an autumn election and the fact that neither the Scotland Act nor the Wales Act allows a referendum to be held for at least three months after a General Election led to consideration of a referendum date being given low priority.

Now that the Prime Minister has ruled out an election this year, the search is on for a date that is both politically and tactically acceptable.

The main constraint now is that an Order has to be laid before both the Commons and the Lords before referenda can be set in motion. Both Houses have to debate the Order, and carry it.

There then has to be a six-week period of grace before a referendum can be held.

Debates

With Parliament reassembling on October 24, debates on the Orders—assuming the Government overrules any Opposition motion on the Queen's speech—could hardly be completed before November 2 at the earliest.

This means that referenda could not legally be held until December 14.

It is inconceivable that the Government would hold a poll a few days before Christmas and unlikely that it would do so immediately in the New Year.

By then there is a strong case for waiting for the new electoral register to come into force in the middle of February because of the need to overcome the 40 per cent hurdle inserted in the Acts by dissident Labour back-benchers.

The most immediately attractive date then becomes March 1, St. David's Day, in Wales. A referendum on that date might be thought to have a charismatic effect for the Government, at least in Wales.

Ironically, the six-week delay between debating the Order and holding a referendum was inserted by the Tory peers, at the instigation of Lord Campbell of Crox and opposed at first by the Government.

It was conceded by the Government only when the pressure of time in the Commons forced Ministers to let certain amendments through in order to get the Bills through on time.

'Survival' Hoover closures

By Ray Perman,
Scottish Correspondent

HOOVER laid unions yesterday that it wants to close its small factories at Hamilton and Carlisle over the next six months and cut production at Cambuslang, its main Scottish manufacturing centre.

The company said that the continuing recession in the UK and export markets made it necessary to reduce output and increase productivity.

It announced a 5-point programme to achieve these aims, but emphasised that they would be reviewed at the end of October when forecasts of demand for next year would be available.

In addition to closing the Carlisle and Hamilton factories which employ a total of 270 people—and transferring production to Cambuslang, Hoover wants to eliminate overtime and reduce output.

Unions in the plant are considering their response.

Cowley stewards to be charged

DISCIPLINARY charges against Mr. Alan Thorneit, the Cowley shop steward known as the Mole, and other activists at the Austin Morris car assembly plant, are to go ahead.

The Oxford district committee of the Transport and General Workers' Union, which investigated complaints against them, and recommended punishments, has rejected a plea to drop the charges.

Mr. Thorneit—the man Leyland will not accept as a deputy senior shop steward at Cowley, an office to which he was elected by ballot—is the only one of the so-called Cowley Nine to face expulsion.

Some have been recommended for removal from office for varying periods, and others for censure.

Most of the nine are prominent TGW stewards and many of them are delegates to the district committee. The unruly behaviour of some delegates at a meeting last October led to a decision by the committee to start disciplinary proceedings.

There has been a sustained campaign within the union to drop the charges. Now that the Oxford district committee has rejected a local move to stop the regional proceedings, the regional committee will continue with its investigation of the members' conduct.

As well as covering unruly behaviour at a committee meeting, allegations include assaults on union officials, misuse of confidential information and pursuing policies contrary to the union's official line.

Mr. Bobby Fryer, the senior shop steward, and several of his deputies are among the Cowley charges.

Plans to step up production at Cowley of the Marina range, still the best-selling Leyland car, are being held up by a spate of supply problems.

One cause is the disruption of Leyland's supply lines caused by the recent strike at the radiator plant at Lissel.

Another is that the neighbouring Pressed Steel Fisher plant at Cowley cannot supply enough body shells to meet the new programme because of engineering changes. These have been caused by the earlier decision to end one of the two night shifts on the Marina line in the two factories.

Production on the other shifts and a further build-up was due on Monday, but workers have been told it has been deferred indefinitely.

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There has been a sustained campaign within

PROPERTY

Within the city walls . . .

BY JUNE FIELD

IN SPITE of rival claims from spear's sonnets are dedicated to Southampton, where Caen had a war the Earl of Southampton. During the war some 3,500 inhabitants had been killed. The King commanded the waves to recede, with almost 41,000 more in urgent need of attention. As the 60,000 inhabitants who had been evacuated returned, the housing shortage reached a crisis. The A'Becket there in 1163, Henry VIII is believed to have had frequent assignations with Anne Boleyn at Tudor House, and there is strong evidence that the Mr. W. H. to whom Shakespeare's sonnets are dedicated

Leisure Services, Southampton City Council, Southampton.) An innovation of the 1970's was the building of homes within the confines of the old walled town. About five years ago a small terrace of "town houses" on 3 floors was constructed by Scandinavian Homes in Westgate Street, 2/3 minutes away from the Royal Pier and Tower Quay. For those who can come to terms with what the handbook calls "contemporary function-orientated design," then the position is eminently

desirable. Number 13 Westgate Street is for sale, with gas central heating, three bedrooms, two bathrooms, two spiral staircases and a sitting room which overlooks the handily restored Tudor Merchant's House. A secluded patio with wrought-iron gate leads to the garage, and the price of £27,500 includes carpets and Venetian blinds. Further details from Geoffrey Cox, partner, Fox and Sons, 30/34 London Road, Southampton, who will also send a folder of properties for sale in the area.

Fox's, an old established firm with 50 offices in the South and West of England (the company was founded by non-smoker and teetotaller Anthony Stoddart Fox in 1888), has given its office lay-out in Southampton and

Winchester a new look. Senior staff, which takes in Bitterne, partner Christopher Cox told Totton, Romsey, Chandler's Ford, Waterloo, Hedge End and Eastleigh, report that house prices in their area have increased by 15-20 per cent, with an inevitable shortage of property on offer. "This is largely due to the continued slowing down of new house starts, particularly in the middle to upper price range," says Christopher Cox. "Also the majority of houses built in the last few years have been for the first time buyer who now wants to move on from their scale of charges card.

On the sale of freehold and long leasehold property, Fox's charge 5 per cent on the first £5,000,

2.5 per cent on the next £5,000, and 2 per cent on the balance of the purchase money.

The Southampton Partner

the next group from trading up.

... and along the river

"HAMBLE SHOULD be get the full benefit of the river views, a split-level living-room with a dramatic carved brick fireplace with a stainless steel canopy, and room divider units incorporating wine store, refrigerator, bar, and 16mm sound cinema facilities. Add a trophy room. Hi-Fi system throughout the house, an indoor kidney-shaped swimming pool, granny flat, and a helicopter landing pad, and you will not be surprised that the price is £15,000. Illustrated brochure from Malcolm Veal, Hall Pain and Foster, 39, London Road, Hamble.

There is a delightful story that the church at Hamble was constructed at the same time as the church on the opposite shore at Fawley. There was a shortage of carpenter's tools, so it is said that whenever a hammer was needed, it was flung backwards and forwards across Southampton Water!

Waterfront properties are naturally in great demand. Reed House, Satchell Lane, Hamble, has direct river frontage, with uninterrupted views of the Hamble River, and extensive grounds to the Saltings. Southampton is about five miles away and the M27 intersection some two miles.

The house, which is rightly described as one of the most interesting and luxurious on the south coast, was built about nine years ago, with five bedrooms and four bathrooms, "his" and "hers" dressing-rooms attached to the main bedroom suite which has a raised dais for the bed so that you can

see the full benefit of the river views, a split-level living-room with a dramatic carved brick

fireplace with a stainless steel canopy, and room divider units incorporating wine store, refrigerator, bar, and 16mm sound cinema facilities. Add a trophy room. Hi-Fi system throughout the house, an indoor kidney-shaped swimming pool, granny flat, and a helicopter landing pad, and you will not be surprised that the price is £15,000. Illustrated brochure from Malcolm Veal, Hall Pain and Foster, 39, London Road, Hamble.

Back in Hamble itself, up the hill past my ever-expanding but favourite Bugle Inn, is Hamble Manor, adjoining the Green. Once a hotel, this Regency house on three floors has been skilfully and imaginatively added to and converted into 14 luxury apartments, seven of which have already been sold.

The builders, N. R. Trickett (Developments), have done a tremendous job in fitting the accommodation into the original facade, without losing its character. As the company told me, it would have been a lot less costly to have pulled the place down and built from scratch! The flats are really well-sited, and there has been no skimping on the fittings.

Some of the bathrooms have bidets, shower cubicles, corner baths with gold-plated taps, and the kitchens have quite some of the most enviable equipment I have seen. One apartment has

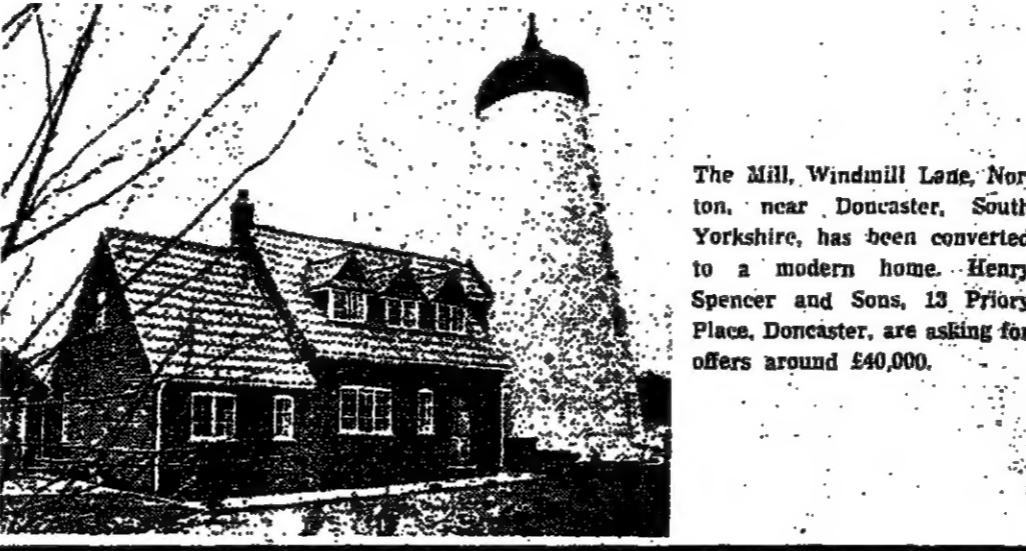
any mooring rights, but berths can usually be rented from Rank Marine International if you get your name down well ahead of the season, and berth holders can store their boat on the open hard free except for handling and movement charges.

For a list of berthing charges and harbour dues, write to the berthing manager, Rank Marine, Port Hamble.



For conversion—Christ's Hospital Almshouses, founded in 1608 by a clerk of the King's Court of Chancery. The original ordinances stipulated who should live in them, and how they should behave. The six individual chambers and chapel in 2/3rds of an acre of rolling Dales

countryside, about 2½ miles from the A1 and 12 miles from Ripon, are for sale through Jackson-Stops and Staff, 23 High Petergate, York, who in view of the high cost of restoration work needed, anticipate a price between £10-£15,000.



The Manor flats don't have any mooring rights, but berths can usually be rented from Rank Marine International if you get your name down well ahead of the season, and berth holders can store their boat on the open hard free except for handling and movement charges.

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FINANCE AND THE FAMILY

Setting aside a transfer

BY OUR LEGAL STAFF

My husband has told me that he proposes to live apart from me. The house in which we live was left to me by my father, though my husband has improved it somewhat and paid all the outgoings. What would be my position if he did leave me and later obtained a divorce? Could he have any claim on the house? If so, is there any way in the meantime whereby I can transfer the house to my children to protect their inheritance?

and so not be liable for the repair cost. It is however unlikely that there would be any order for possession in your basis for such a claim in the favour if you wish to reside fact that the car was in the care there. It would be wise to write to the tenant advising her liability in the terms of their in due course. The Rent Act does not prevent transmission of a tenancy to a grandchild: it is a question of fact in each case if the person is a member of the tenant's family; but grandchildren have been held to fall within the term.

Retirement to Hong Kong

I am proposing to retire to Hong Kong, where as soon as I reach age 65, I shall be entitled to the State pension and to one from my firm. Could you say how much money I can take out, what my tax position will be and whether I could draw my pensions there?

You can take up to £40,000 out of the country. You would be liable to UK tax on any income drawn from the UK except in so far as it were taxed in Hong Kong. You could draw your pensions in Hong Kong.

A noisy neighbour

Next door to my mother's terraced house is an empty house owned by a man who uses it at weekends as a workshop. He then is hanging and drilling with high-powered electric drills, sometimes until very late at night. Have we any redress?

There are a number of remedies open to you, under the law of nuisance and statutory control of noise, for example. However, your best course is probably to approach the Environmental Officer at your local authority and possibly the Planning Department there as well.

Tax relief and CCT

As executor of my late father's will I borrowed some money in June 1977 from my bank, to pay the estimated capital transfer tax on his estate in order to obtain probate. On my 1977-78 tax return I claimed relief of income tax on the interest I had to pay the bank

No legal responsibility can be accepted by the Financial Times for the answers given in these columns. All inquiries will be answered, by post, as soon as possible.

for the loan but the tax authorities have made no allowance for this. Can tax relief not be claimed in these circumstances?

What you have in mind is paragraph 17 of schedule 1 to the Finance Act 1974, as amended (for CCT) by paragraph 19(2) of schedule 12 to the Finance Act 1975.

To see what the rules are, you should ask your inspector for a copy of the free booklet IR11 (with an updating supplement), and look at section 110 on page 19.

An asset under land

In March 1976 I was bequeathed a house by the will of an aunt in which I was also appointed the sole executrix. A grant of Probate was obtained by personal application to a District Probate Registry and the estate realised and distributed among the persons entitled to share in it, with the exception of the formal transfer of the house into my name. As I am now proposing to sell the property, could you tell me what legal process, if any, is required to give me title to sell?

It is preferable for you to execute an asset under hand in favour of yourself, as the distribution which has already been made of the rest of the estate may preclude you from selling as personal representative. You can obtain a precedent of an ordinary asset from any standard precedent book e.g. Kelly's Draftsman.

AN ARTICLE costing £1.10 and reduced to £1.85 in a supermarket would be a special offer. Comeau Retints of Australia is the Melbourne-based unit of the Rio Tinto-Zinc group and the leader of the Ashton diamond exploration venture, produced a report on the latest prospects and with that out of the way, the chances of further fresh information before next month to boost a market living on promises diminished. It seemed a good time to cash in.

Amax this week rejected offers from Socal. The oil company's offer values Amax at \$1.85bn (£954.8m) while Amax calculates its assets as worth more than \$3.1bn. A higher and more definite offer might be forthcoming, in which case Wall Street might see another titanic takeover struggle. And London will not be a mere bystander.

Selection Trust has 8.3 per cent of Amax and its shares responded on Thursday with a rise of 29p to 459p. Yesterday they closed at 500p. Socal's interest in Amax is no surprise. Amax had already surrendered to what Mr. Ronald Fraser of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting once called "the lubricating if not lubricious embrace" of the oil company. Socal's stake, bought in 1975, is 20 per cent.

Cash rich and looking for diversification into related fields, the major oil groups have increasingly turned their attention to mineral groups. By any standards Amax is a worthwhile asset with an income based on molybdenum, the so-called space metal, and interests spreading through coal, oil and gas to base metals and forestry.

But the oil groups are also interested in joint ventures. In Australia, Western Mining Corporation has already worked out a deal with Exxon for the Yeelirrie uranium deposit. It is now deafeningly whispered that another deal with a different group will soon be announced for the Roxby Downs copper-uranium prospect.

The whispers have helped to keep the WMC share price strong in a very firm Australian mining market. Yesterday it was at a year's high of 161p for a gain on the week of 18p.

In the second half of the week it looked as if the market was pausing for breath. There had been some profit-taking, although the general tone suggested that the bull phase still had some way to run. One of the reasons for the profit-taking was the tinge of

uncertainty about both diamonds and uranium. Northern Mining fell 10p on Thursday and 7p on Friday to finish at 123p.

The movement of Australian uranium shares, on the other hand, has been linked to political movements and whether Mr. Malcolm Fraser, the Prime Minister, could persuade the Northern Land Council, statutory body set up to represent Aboriginal interests, formally to sign an agreement on the conditions for the development of the Ranger deposit.

The Northern Land Council's attitude seemed to be changing daily. First it would sign. Then it would not. Yesterday Mr. Galarrwuy Yunupingu, the Council chairman, was saying he would recommend signature, following a little persuasion from Mr. Fraser. So the Peko-Wallend share price steadied to 570p. EZ Industries climbed to 233p. The two groups are the Ranger joint venturers.

But the final word has probably not been spoken. The Northern Land Council meets next week. The position has become complicated because Mr. Yunupingu has linked the Ranger agreement to a demand that the Government should hold back on the development of the Jabuluka deposit.

These uranium and diamond developments have diverted the market's attention from South African gold shares. Little encouragement was drawn from the latest International Monetary Fund bullion auction on Thursday, falling 12 to 324p, and then slipped a further 6p to 318p yesterday. With them they took Northern Mining, a junior Ashton partner and one of the actively traded small

impings on sacred Aboriginal from previous auctions.

The two deposits are near each other, but while Ranger is where the selling price was

simply in an Aboriginal land

\$212.50 an ounce—firmly in the current trading range—because

by Pancontinental Mining could the number of bids dropped

on

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LEISURE



Dinant

Ardennes Autumn

AFTER this year's apology for a summer, let us hope that St. Luke takes pity on us with some autumn sunshine before winter finally sets in.

Autumn is an ideal time to visit the varied countryside of the Belgian Ardennes and I was surprised to learn that the Belgians think that the reason that relatively few British holidaymakers visit the area is that we have comparable scenery here at home. Yet there is no real comparison with this vast area of rolling, wooded hills, deciduous and pine forests, winding rivers, small towns and pleasant villages within the three provinces of Namur, Luxembourg and Liège, a kind of amalgam of the New Forest, the Downs and the wilder parts of Wales.

Incidentally the Belgian Province of Luxembourg covers a greater area than the Grand-Duchy. After crossing overnight on the Townsend Thoresen ferry from Felixstowe to Zeebrugge and, using the ring road around Brussels, it is only a three hours drive to Namur, with the Meuse Valley a delightful prelude to the Ardennes proper.

The sun was actually shining when I visited the gardens of Annevoie, a few miles south of Namur. The château has been in the de Montpellier family since

IT NEVER does to pass up the chance to get on the river and, business taking me past the Test one August afternoon, I slipped down to the bank to see if anything was doing. It was a most unpromising situation, cool and rather bright, as much of the month had been, and very little fly of any sort on the water. But there was some movement about 100 yards down stream from where I left the car. Quite a large fish was splashing about, there is no other word to describe its actions.

I crept down below it, and saw through my polarised glasses that it was about three pounds, but I could not make out what it was feeding in such an ungainly fashion. I was using a very small pheasant tail, with which I covered it several times, and seemed to have put it down. So I walked the rest of the beat without seeing the sign of a fish, and when I got back it was at it again. So I then put on a rather big thick bodied pheasant tail,

and this time it took the fly straight away and eventually I netted a 3 lb brown trout.

As soon as I took the hook out I saw the reason for its curious behaviour. There was a large sedge fly firmly hooked in its palate and it was obviously the discomfort of this that was making it feed so awkwardly. This instance of course the inherent stupidity of most fish, which will take an almost identical bait to that they had taken before, even a short time before. But it underlines also the thoughtlessness of trying to catch strong fish, which these most certainly are, with tackle which is far too light.

I normally use casts of 5 lb breaking strain, which with modern nylon is quite thin enough to deceive the fish. But it is also strong enough to check it decisively if once

hooked, to say nothing of a length of cast as well and I think it inflicts an unnecessary discomfort on the fish in consequence. To me the whole essence of fishing, is to put the fly where the fish is rising, and see it take place. Playing the fish in is by contrast just an executioner's job, to be

performed as quickly and painless for the fish than the match angling for coarse fish which entails catching, weighing and then returning the fish so that in the course of the season the same fish could be taken a number of times and I am sure many are. The skills needed in match fishing are of a very high order far more so than in game fishing, and the preparations and application strenuous.

In fact playing is hardly the word for it. You have the fish at the end of the line, and you are tiring it out so that it can be netted without trouble. A lot of people make an awful fuss about this, but the rules are quite simple. Just keep the line tight at all times, so that if it is swimming away it is pulling against the check of the reel, and if it jumps out of the water drop the point of the rod smartly otherwise the extra strain on the line could break it or cause the fly to become unstuck. In fact I don't really enjoy playing fish at all. One of these days my disengagement will lead me to fishing with barbless flies, and just keeping a score of the rises.

This would be even more

always fraught with danger. The public becomes bewildered, many new varieties start well but then develop faults and quickly disappear from cultivation and more worth introductions are overlooked in the crush. It has happened to many flowers besides the dahlia and I sometimes think that it would not be a bad thing if all flower breeding stopped for a few years to give the gardening public a chance to recover its breath and sort things out.

The really remarkable breaks

that change the whole character of a plant are rare and usually occur in the early stages of a breeding programme when new species are being crossed for the first time. As the years go by breeders settle down into a routine which results in a rehash of the same, or marginally different, characteristics and often the awards and the publicity go to anything that is a little more novel than the average irrespective of its true garden value.

It is more profitable to publicise a few well tried kinds and rely on familiarity and proven merit to promote sales. So side by side with the reduction in the numbers of dahlia nurseries we are already witnessing a reduction in the number of new dahlias. Maybe one would not

guess this from a casual inspection of the excellent dahlia trials that continue to be held jointly by the National Dahlia Society and the Royal Horticultural Society in the latter's garden at Wisley, Surrey, but even here it would seem that

an increasing proportion of entries are from amateurs. This

does not necessarily imply any decline in quality but one wonders how many of the varieties that receive awards will ever penetrate far beyond the gardens of enthusiasts who

will produce and perhaps some brief cultural directions.

This change in marketing methods is already having a profound effect on the number and character of the firms producing dahlias for the amateur gardening market. Young rooted cuttings have always been

mainly the concern of relatively small firms, mostly family businesses specialising in this one

GARDENING

ARTHUR HELLIER

artificially small' being grown in pots from late struck cuttings the summer before they are to be sold. This involves more space and greater capital expenditure, and the trade has been mainly in the hands of fairly large producers mostly Continental based. They have been distributed to retail outlets through wholesale channels and so there has been no necessity for direct contact between producer and customer and little need for expensive display at shows or even more costly catalogues. Since the tubers are ready in the autumn, they can be marketed just as early the next year as there is any demand for them - the customer can buy when he likes and insp' the quality of the plants before purchasing.

One always regrets change even when commonsense insists that it is inevitable and probably for the better. Mass breeding of flowers, with all its attendant bally-hoo, essential if it is to be made to pay, is

hooked it looks like going into the weed or round some obstruction. With a strong cast like this, the worst that can happen is for the hook to come out of its mouth.

But if the line breaks the fish has the hook in its mouth for quite a time, if it is well

FISHING

JOHN CHERRINGTON

hooked, to say nothing of a length of cast as well and I think it inflicts an unnecessary discomfort on the fish in consequence. To me the whole essence of fishing, is to put the fly where the fish is rising, and see it take place. Playing the fish in is by contrast just an executioner's job, to be

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and often the awards and the

publicity go to anything that is

a little more novel than the

average irrespective of its true

garden value.

So it may not be a bad thing

that for a time we shall not

need to revise our dahlia lists

every year but instead will be

able to rely on the wholesale

producers to concentrate on the

production of varieties that

they know, from long experi-

ence will give satisfaction.

After all, there are still some

extremely old dahlias that have

not been surpassed in their

special field though probably

most of the present generation

of gardeners have never heard

of them.

Only a week or so ago, I saw

a marvellous display of Bishop

of Llandaff, in my opinion the

most handsome pale-leaved

dahlia that has ever been

raised. Its lively crimson

flowers are just the right

colour for its deep beetroot red

leaves and it is of medium

height and so requires little or

no staking. It is said to be a

persistent carrier of virus

disease but it never shows any

adverse symptoms. I suppose

if all varieties had a similar

susceptibility to virus would cease to be of importance to dahlia

growers.

Production of tin concentrate

during the year ended 31 March 1977

amounted to 2,020 tonnes compared with 2,117 tonnes during the

previous year, this fall in output being accompanied by an increase

approximately 10 per cent. in operating costs. However, the high

average metal price applicable to the sale of concentrates, which rose

from £4,882 to £6,181 per tonne, coupled with the virtually unchanged

currency exchange rate, resulted in a higher net profit of £878.8

compared with £668.997 for the preceding year. Operating results

of the mining company can therefore be considered to be satisfactory.

Strong columbite market continued to contribute to these overall

with total sales amounting to 140 tonnes.

Production of tin concentrate

during the first four months of the

present financial year amounted to 572 tonnes compared with 571 tonnes by the end of July last year. Columbite output on the other hand showed a considerable improvement over the same period increasing from 63 tonnes to 118 tonnes.

The average tin metal price for the year to date has been approxi-

mately £6,388 per tonne, whilst the price of columbite has forth-

strengthened by about 5 per cent. Providing these general levels are

maintained the mining operations should continue to show a satisfac-

to level of profitability.

ABDUL RAHIM AI

Chairman

1 September 1978

Copies of the full statement, together with the annual report or

accounts, are obtainable from 40 Holborn Viaduct, London EC1P 1A

and informative. There is a very comprehensive collection of stuffed birds and animals, including an enormous and very evil-looking wild boar. The young of the species, the Marassin, is one of the region's gastronomic specialities.

La Roche, on the River Ourthe and completely rebuilt after the war, is the main tourist centre in Luxembourg Province. Dominated by the castle perched high above the town, it bursts at the seams in high summer. I saw through my polarised glasses that it was about three pounds, but I could not make out what it was feeding in such an ungainly fashion. I was using a very small pheasant tail, with which I covered it several times, and seemed to have put it down. So I walked the rest of the beat without seeing the sign of a fish, and when I got back it was at it again. So I then put on a rather big thick bodied pheasant tail,

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ARTS

Educating the heart Susa's Transformations

I failed to listen to *The Lady in the Camellias* by Terence Rattigan when it was first broadcast in 1974 and I am therefore taking the opportunity to catch up with this four-part adaptation of Dumas fils' novel now being repeated on Radio 4, starting next Sunday. It is radio's equivalent of a good read and an excellent run-in in Ian Cottrell's smooth production. Human had the luck given to few writers to light upon one of those characters who demands to be resurrected endlessly in every medium known to man. I suppose our contemporary counterpart is the sharkish Sally Bowles who was also taken originally from real life, put into a work of fiction, then translated into drama, film, and finally set to music. Just as Miss Bowles has been interpreted with great success by talents as different from each other as those of Judi Dench and Liza Minnelli, so Marguerite has proved an inspiration to Edwige Feuillet and Garbo in our time, not to mention countless sopranos in a sense Marguerite and Sally's variants of the same

RADIO

ANTHONY CURTIS

character and it will be interesting to see whether any heroine in a work of fiction written since the war will have anything like a long runnings. I can only offer and think of one even to put forward as a candidate.

In this radio version the ailing Sophie was played by Sarah Badel in suitably caressing voice. It opened after her untimely death from consumption with a tale of her property by auction at which the young Dumas—an earnest-sounding John Nye—purchases her copy of *Manon Lescaut* inscribed by Armand Duval—Gary Bond in his pre-juvea days. This leads to Dumas meeting, and becoming an intimate friend of her lover, who tells him the whole harrowing story of their relationship. This first episode underlined her love of pleasure with scenes in her box at the ballet and theatre as well as exposing the economics of her lifestyle and Armand's instant infatuation in spite of it.

The story, one of the great romantic clichés of all time, continues to hold one in its spell. I shall be back tomorrow at 9.30 on 4, for more of the same.

Another sturdy stand-by of radio drama and features, Dr. Samuel Johnson, was reviewed in the person—or rather the voice—but it felt like the whole person—of Leo McKern in Richard

Brayshaw's play. Dr. Johnson Investigates (Radio 4, September 4). This turned out to be an ingenious apocryphal exercise in which Mr. Brayshaw posed a murder among the members of Garrick's troupe at Drury Lane during a performance of *Macbeth*. Garrick dies so at the same time does the actor playing him. Several of his fellow thespians have strong reasons for desiring his demise and the Doctor brings his knowledge of the human heart of the play's text and of the logistics of the production to bear on the mystery. It all turns cleverly on the identity of the Third Murderer—the one who appears without previously having been briefed by Macbeth and who has always puzzled commentators. Mr. McKern huffed and puffed his way through the part of the Great Cham crossed with Sherlock Holmes. In Edward de Souza's *Boozzy* a chirpy pushing kind of Dr. Watson modestly describes it as "an

English Music Theatre are bravely mounting a new work by the American composer Conrad Susa at the Young Vic—three performances concluding tonight. Saturday, *Transformations* uses nine poems by Anne Sexton which are aphorisms of Grimm tales taken to the extent that it depends on production and on teamwork by singers who can also dance and mime, with a small orchestra (eight players, including the conductor, of several instruments). This is the kind of new work this company is there to do.

The quality is another matter. On Thursday *Transformations*, in spite of a well-rehearsed, often ingenious production by Roger Williams, did not justify the claims made for it across the Atlantic. Mr. Susa, a theatre musician of wide experience, modestly describes it as "an

MUSIC

RONALD Crichton

entertainment" but it made a thin effect. What mostly comes across from the poems is a sort of twisting, deft, deadpan humour. The smart modern gloss on the already considerable amount of evil implicit or explicit in German (and other) fairy tales does not, on this showing, amount to much more than an occasional jab in the ribs.

Though one of the singers for at least part of the time represents Anne Sexton herself, the lines are spread out between three women soloists and five men. Some of the action is mimed, some reported, in deliberately anachronistic settings—"Iron Hans" as a game of Badminton, "Rapunzel" as a beach scene. Most of the second and last act is done in evening dress. During the nastier bits of "Hansel and Gretel," while the witch is preparing to cook and eat the children (and of course is pushed into her own oven) the singers stuff themselves with canapes and drinks.

THEATRES THIS WEEK . . . AND NEXT

BRISTOL OLD VIC—*The Seagull*: Handsome, if cool, production with Richard Pasco as Trigorin. Reviewed Wednesday.MERCURY, COLCHESTER—*The Rover*: An enjoyable revival of this long-ignored Restoration comedy by Mrs. Aphra Behn. Reviewed Thursday.LYTTELTON—*The Philander*: More GBS, this time taking a wise and witty look at the New Woman. Dinsdale Landen plays the Shavian character in a jolly evening. Reviewed Friday.

The event of next week is the revival of *Inadmissable Evidence* at the Royal Court which is



Michael Bulman and Sheila Brand

Mr. Susa's score shows a long line of cantilena for practised hand with incidental Rapunzel and her too, too loving mother Gothen, but as far as place. The scoring is light, clear, often pretty, the vocal writing mostly graceful, sometimes tax-

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ARTS/COLLECTING



Jean Harlow

Classic glamour

The shifts of taste are uncertain things, hard for the social scientist to predict, often not studios and films they served, as much for their attraction as for their strength. The cult of Art Deco began not as a serious reappraisal, but, like those of Victorianism and Art Nouveau before it, as a somewhat self-mocking and perverse, even kitch indulgence. We came to mock and stayed, first to enjoy and then to value. In recent years the Art, Architecture and

ART DECO

WILLIAM PACKER

Design, the Music, Fashions, and Films of the years between the Wars have all become staples of serious critical scholarship; and inevitably Photography is prominent among them.

But one particular genre has been for too long not ignored, exactly, but not taken seriously. The images of the great Hollywood Stars of the time are cabinets and dressing tables familiar to us still, images often serve to remind us of that old power: and yet we too easily take anything away.

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Portrait of John Joshua Kirby by Andrea Addi. Oil. 1755.

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GOLD
AND THE WEAKNESS OF THE
U.S. DOLLAR

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Telephone: 01-438 3232

Early Music Festival

The Early Music Centre is no more than a couple of converted terraced houses in Princedale Road, London W11, but it provides England's first specialised performances and study courses in early music. Evening classes, children's sessions, concert series, weekend conventions and (as from this autumn) three full-scale professional courses on the violin, the lute and the voice—all have so far been accommodated by this flourishing self-help institution.

Last year the Centre promoted a popular and successful Festival of early music in the Wigmore Hall; though great fun, it encountered the criticism that its content was too lightweight. This year's Festival, which has been running all this week at St John's, Smith Square, has gone one better, as he manages to focus his throaty, forward voice into what to the opposite extreme. It has sounds like the vocal equivalent of a ball of fire.

His recital revealed a host of little-known treasures: the have been carefully planned intense tragedy of Sigismondo to reflect the individual's Orpheus lament which development within the hierarchy of the created world, thus reflecting the Centre's intention dissonant melodies, and Cesti's to study music against its philosophical background. Whether fashionable taste for solo song, the first concert represented the *Appetite in desso canto*. A *Infant, newling and puking* in Caldara motet from 1712 made a somewhat anachronistic end to the programme, have what had been a very tight-knit ranged from medieval poly-recital and its strong rhythmic phony, through renaissance framework to produce court and chamber music, to some of the forced tones Mr. Passion, conducted by Andrew Parrott with an original instrument orchestra — a per throughout the recital the formance which, though unarticulation was brilliant, the seasonal, should be of unusual direct.

NICHOLAS KENYON

Peter Schaufuss

The latter part of this week has brought an exceptional piece of dancing to enhance a somewhat wayward Festival Ballet programme.

On Thursday night at the Festival Hall Peter Schaufuss unleashed several different sorts of lightning in that child's guide to what is wrong with ballet, the *Coriolan pas de deux*. It is a piece so foolish, so open to every sort of abuse, and so risible in the Tarzan-esque posturing that are required of its interpreters. That ideally it needs to be done by Morecambe and Wise.

Falling either of those choices, I will settle for Peter Schaufuss, all the more so because he is absolutely cast against type. Nothing in his training or stage persona suits him for the Ethel M. Dellerly of the character (in which Nureyev, on the other hand, brings a glossy sexual allure which is exactly right). But Schaufuss, bending and swooping dutifully

CLEMENT CRISP

pressed here before the tournament, that reform in the championship selection is long overdue. The BCF should follow the lead of the Aarons and Lloyds Bank Masters and award scholarship places in the championship to talented juniors from the national squad who rank highly for their age.

The new champion, Jonathan Speelman, was to be a talented but inconsistent attacking player. In the last year his game has matured, he qualified as an international master and brilliantly defeated the great Larsen at Lone Pine.

Speelman is a mathematician, and most of the other leading finishers work in some numerate sport.

One of the best games of the championship featured a classic attack against a weakened king's defences. It is easier to understand and emulate such play than complex strategic wins, and, besides its instructional aspect, the black king chased round the board till mate.

The opening moves were 1 P-K4, P-K3; 2 P-Q4, P-Q4 3 N-Q2, P-K4; 4 N-Q2, N-Q2; 5 N-KB3, B-K2; 6 B-Q3, K-N3; 7 N-KN, B-KN; 8 Q-K2, Q-K2.

Black is trying to improve on a system which is reputedly difficult for Black after the normal 8 ... B-KB4 followed by 0-0-0. Instead, Black kept the option of castling on the same square as White, 8 Q-Q2, 9 Q-Q2, P-B4; 10 B-K3, 0-0; 11 P-B3, P-PxP (around here Black

this. South made a forcing response of three hearts, and the opener rebid three no trumps, a response which should indicate only a doubleton heart. South now bid four no trumps, which in view of the forcing situation is conventional, asking for Aces. North's reply of five spades was heartening, and South asked again with five no trumps. North's response of six diamonds promised the one missing King, so South bid seven hearts.

When West led the spade Knave and dummy appeared. South was disappointed with what he saw. There were 12 top tricks, and any hope of making a thirteenth depended on a squeeze. But what type of squeeze was not yet clear.

Winning the lead with his King, the declarer drew trumps in three rounds, throwing a club from the table. West also discarded a club. South now cashed the spade Ace and ruffed a spade, and when East's Queen dropped, it seemed that West was left with the ten. Now came Ace, King of diamonds, a diamond was ruffed in hand, and the Queen fell from West.

If that was a true card, it

meant that East had the Knave, and a double squeeze was certain. Declarer played his last trump, and the squeeze started to operate. West had to keep his spade, so he was forced to discard a club. The spade eight, no longer needed, was thrown from dummy, and now East was under pressure. Forced to keep his master diamond, he too had to let go a club, the declarer cashed Ace, King of clubs, and the nine was good for his thirteenth trick.

Now for a hand played by

Rixi Markus in the Rothman's Pairs Championship:

N. E.

♦ A 8 6 3. ♦ Q 7 2

♦ J 10 ♦ 6 4 3

♦ A K 9 2 ♦ J 9 4

♦ A 8 7 ♦ 10 4 3

W. E.

♦ 10 9 4 ♦ Q 7 3

♦ 6 2 ♦ 6 4 3

♦ Q 7 5 ♦ J 10 4 3

♦ J 10 5 2 ♦ Q 6 3

S.

♦ K 5 ♦ K 9 7 5

♦ A 8 6 ♦ K 9 8

♦ K 9 4 ♦ K 9 8

North dealt at game to North-South and bid one no trump. His 16 points included one Knave, but the fact that he had three Aces compensated for

At love all West dealt and bid one weak no trump, which was passed round to South, who competed with two hearts and eventually played in four hearts, doubled by East.

West led the club King, which was allowed to win, and West switched to the diamond King. South won with dummy's Ace and at once ruffed a diamond.

She saw that this was no time for drawing trumps—the vital thing was to avoid losing to the spade Queen. Now she played a club to the Ace, ruffed a diamond in hand and a club in dummy.

A fourth diamond was led, which caused East had a problem. If he ruffed low, it would cost him a trump trick; if he ruffed high, the declarer would discard a low spade. He decided to discard a club, and South ruffed.

Now South made the key play—a low heart—which was won by West's Knave. West returned a trump to the Queen and Ace, but now South could see the way clear. She cashed the spade King, crossed in dummy's Ace, and led the established diamond for a spade discard.

The British are trying again

In THOSE areas of endeavour at 81 holes each and the celebration in which we take on the bratons went on long into the Americans there are few at Atlantic, which we are so spectacularly unsuccessful as golf. The Ryder roundings of acres of Cornish Cup, the Walker Cup, the Curtis farmland, another club professional—of them are foregone signal team, with only four of the last one remaining, are

put him in a competition where 359 years ago this week that he is not worried about the Pilgrim Fathers left for a new life in America.

They didn't take their clubs with them—it was another 274 years before golf began in America—but their successors

have since established a supremacy which has been almost total. This week it is being challenged, and the Great Britain and Ireland side got off to a marvellous start in the first series of foursomes.

Peter Butler and David Hutch quickly went three up, after four holes, when the Americans three-putted the first, second and fourth holes. They retained

that lead to the turn and very shortly afterwards registered the first result of the match—the five and four win over Laurie Hammer and Ron Smith.

Behind them Brian Wates and Mike Ingham went in the turn in a two-under-par 84 and were six up. They began with a birdie three when Wates holed

from 20 feet and then at the fourth the Americans, Bruce Summerhayes and Dave Barber, three-putted.

Peter Butler and David Hutch

were up three up at the sixth with that skill is allied to inspiration it becomes a formidable combination. "Playing in these matches makes me feel intensely proud," he says.

"When you stand there at the flag raising ceremony and hear God Save the Queen being played, it sends shivers down the spine. To hear your name announced on the first tee as

playing for Great Britain and Ireland is well, there's no feeling like it."

Plymouth is of course a strangely appropriate place to stage a match where the routine of an old enemy is required. It was here that Sir Francis Drake insisted on putting out before going of to deal with the Spaniards—how our tournament professionals could use him

at the eighth and ninth holes with a four iron second at the 311-yard ninth.

Grace
and
savour

eluded Nicholas Wanstroth, a teacher who had let his school in Camberwell go to pot on account of his obsession with cricket, which he played professionally under the pseudonym of N. Felix. His manual *Felix on the Bat* is a cricket classic; there are several copies in Phillips' sale. The fine illustrations, lithographed in blue and yellow, were provided by the young G. F. Watts. This first era of professional cricket also produced the best known (because so mercilessly pirated) of cricketing prints. Mason, Drummond and Basebe's *Cricket Match Between Sussex and Kent*, first published in 1848, and the game's equivalent to Frith's *Derby Day*.

At the height of the Victorian age, cricket went international. The first English team toured

COLLECTING

JANET MARSH

America and produced another cricketing classic, Lillewhite's *English Cricketer's Trip*; and in 1861 a pioneer team toured Australia and brought back £11,000 in profits.

The English County Championship dates from 1873; the first Test Match was played in 1877; and the last quarter of the century saw cricket definitely established as the Englishman's national sport.

Much of Phillips' "Cricketana" data from this golden age: many items inevitably celebrate the most eminent of Victorian cricketers, Dr. W. G. Grace. A co-sport "Century of Centuries" plate commemorates Collet and Miss Trigger's young lady in a vast beribboned hat, holding the asymmetrical knife-shaped bat of the Doctor's *annus mirabilis* of 1885, when in May he scored 1,000 runs and hit his 100th century. Grace's portrait is surrounded by radial inscriptions detailing all the single, double and treble centuries of his career.

Among Phillips' more esoteric offerings is a little book published in 1887 in an edition of only 28, called "Curiosities of Cricket" by an Old Cricketer.

It is itself a curiosity, recording such notable matches as those played between Single Women and Married Women or Matrons and Maids, and played without a thought of immodesty.

Apart from occasional broadside woodcuts of rural players, there are no cricket collectables dating much before the end of the eighteenth century, when the sport began to attract the attention of painters and printmakers. Two of the best-known early prints, interestingly enough, both feature women cricketers. Collet's "Miss Wicket and Miss Trigger" shows a young lady in a vast beribboned hat, holding the asymmetrical knife-shaped bat of the Doctor's *annus mirabilis* of 1885, when in May he scored 1,000 runs and hit his 100th century. Grace's portrait is surrounded by radial inscriptions detailing all the single, double and treble centuries of his career.

Cricket has always been a creditably non-sexist game. At a match played at Hilton, Dorset, in 1848, the rules were amended to allow the ball to be caught in a lady's dress; and throughout Victoria's reign matches between Single Women and Married Women or Matrons and Maids were played without a thought of immodesty.

Between Handsome Men and Ugly Men, between a team Light with Honesty, and between a man and a dog and a one-armed man and his son, games have also been played in top hats on ice on the Gwynnion Sands, and on horseback.

The game has often proved fatal. The "Old Cricketer" recalls that players have been killed from collision with one another, from falling upon the stumps, from falling from cliffs when following the ball, and from snakebite. Mortality among passing fauna—birds and rodents largely—has been even greater.

Games have been interrupted by the eruption on to the pitch of mice, stoats, hares and hounds and a runaway horse and cart; and at Darlington in 1895 play was stopped, not surprisingly, by the spectacle of 15 weasels crossing the wicket.

Balls have been hit into the batsman's pantaloons, the umpire's pocket and the batsman's bat lining.

The Old Cricketer also recalls some notable examples of fielding. At Tunbridge Wells in 1835 a fielder leapt on to a bystander's horse to follow a ball, and at Leyton in 1863 an armless Essex man called Walker, who was also reckoned a fair bat, caught out the batsman.

Physical handicaps have on occasion proved more inconvenient. In a game at Walton Bridge Inn, established his All-England Team, Clarke had only in the '80s, the batsman's wooden leg fell off and was promptly used by the fielder in the time the more remarkable.

Clarke's All-England team in colourful cricketana.

TV RATINGS
w/e Sept. 3

UK Top 20. Home viewing (in)	1. <i>News at Ten</i> (ITV) 10.75
2. <i>America's Last Stand</i> (ITV) 10.65	3. <i>Coronation Street</i> (Wed.) (Granada) 13.25
3. <i>Aspern Murders</i> (ITV) 13.15	4. <i>Barney and Hinch</i> (BBC) 12.85

Unscrambling the radio waves

BY DAVID FISHLOCK, SCIENCE EDITOR

IF THE annual meeting of the estimates, Europe could have as British Association for the Advancement of Science is any operating.

The problem is rooted in the emerge at last from the era laws of physics and the way the of gloomy prognostications, electro-magnetic spectrum becomes. Very few of the papers this week have forecast disaster if "window" in the electro-magnetic spectrum of frequencies this or that course of action. But there was one in which the speaker left some of his frame is drawn by the physical audience with a sense of size of the transmitting aerial, de-jou, not for the subject—a which below 10 kilohertz be a relatively new one—but for comes far too big to contemplate in which he addressed plate.

On the other side the frame which heads the School of Electrical Engineering at the University of Bath, is unrepentantly a technologist who believes in technological solutions. His

worries are with the radio spectrum—the airwaves—and the way they are becoming overcongested. His plea is for conservation of a resource which, he says, for good scientific reasons is finite, and the limits to which can be very precisely defined. His message is that "spectrum pollution"—the way in which we abuse our airwaves—is producing a crisis more acute than those of energy and material resources. His resolution is a technological one—more advanced systems for radio reception.

In November the BBC—as it keeps advising radio listeners and inviting them to help publicise—is changing the frequencies of most of its radio programmes. One reason is the recognition that Radio 4 is the most popular programme among car radio listeners: the change will allow them to remain tuned to the same frequency on long drives. But another is simply radio congestion—difficulties arising from the increasing use of radio bands and the way transmissions are jumbled together on the dial. By November, the BBC

ising development of a substantial offered by vets, frozen food security and defence. The and rapidly growing new market; one which can show hand-some returns for its customers.

Take the police, says Professor Gosling. Its workforce is little available to private car owners in Britain: a service which has grown steadily in spite of its high cost.

Then there are possibilities to be over-the-horizon radars able to keep pace with the Britain. A Midlands bus sites at the moment of launch.

cated but at power levels much higher than international regulations stipulate or purely domestic needs require.

Such breaches of international convention tend to force neighbours also to "shout louder." But for the listener it simply means more spurious signals each side of the bandwidth allocated—more jumbling of transmissions. If everyone today could be persuaded to reduce the power of his transmission, reception would immediately improve.

Until the last year or so the British Government was pretty unenthusiastic about taking any action to avoid a "spectrum famine."

An unpublished report in 1975 by a Home Office official, Mr. James Warden, examined the case for a major new use of radio, privately-owned mobile communications.

It proposed that little encouragement should be given to the expansion of such transmission. To relieve existing congestion it favoured

more sharing of wavebands, and more skilful use of frequency allocations by better trained operators.

Given such restrictions, it concluded, any need for a technological fix could be postponed for at least a decade.

The radio manufacturers were understandably aghast. It had even been argued that more transmissions could be squeezed in by reducing the bandwidth allocated, and tolerating the poorer quality of transmission this must entail.

Or take private radio services used in emergencies only. But if the Government is seriously interested in improving public road services and wooing people away from the private car, radio affords more technological promise than more fancy ideas for "rapid transit."

Another reason is the refusal of some countries to observe internationally allocated frequencies for broadcasts. The most flagrant example is provided by Albania, which uses a very powerful (2MW) transmitter to broadcast on a frequency which has not been allocated.

The Saudis are starting up a new transmitter on a frequency allo-

promising ways, they believe, of electronic component circuits, would be to adapt the technique known as single side-band to the which a tighter technical specification of land mobile radio. Both Philips Research Laboratories at Redhill in Surrey (Philips' UK subsidiary Pye Telecommunications is the biggest makers of land mobile radio in the UK) and Professor Gosling's own laboratories at the University of Bath believe they have cracked this problem. Both successfully demonstrated their latest ideas at the Conference on Radio Receivers and Associated Systems at Southampton this summer. And, a third system, using a different approach, was demonstrated by Marconi.

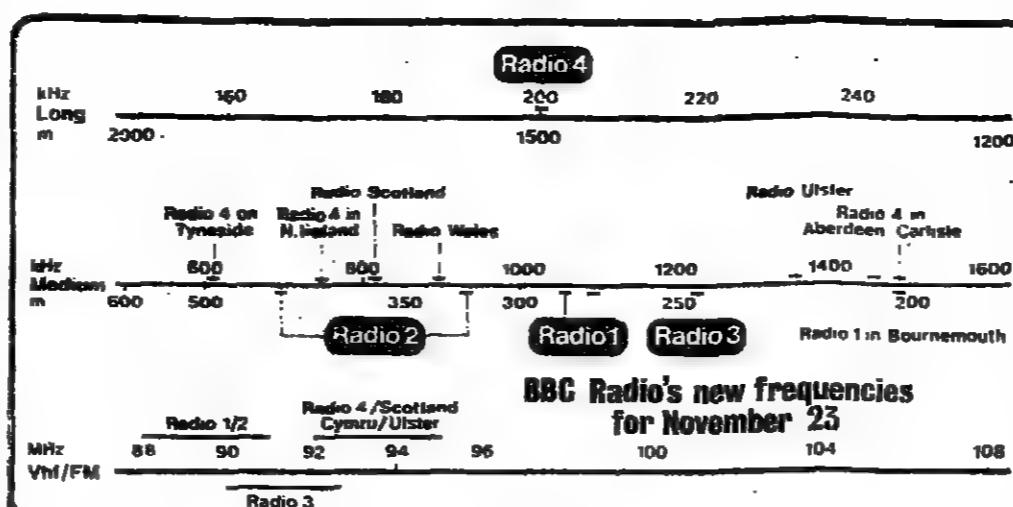
The Bath University system has been developed first with Home Office grants from its Directorate of Telecommunications, and more recently with funds from the Wolfson Foundation.

A concession is now developing among radio experts worldwide, says Professor Gosling, that a technological solution to the problem of spectrum con-

cession is within reach. He takes heart from the fact that the regulatory side of the Home Office has begun to acknowledge that there is a problem, and to take the technological solutions seriously; and also from a report of the Federal Communications Commission in the U.S. earlier this year, strongly supporting the extension of SSB into the VHF and UHF bands for land mobile radio.

Change will not come about overnight. It means a lot of detailed work yet by the radio system companies to develop the new techniques into broadcasting and receiving systems. For users it may mean scrapping investments to open the way for more conservation-conscious systems. But the outcome could be much wider use of an economically proven method

of communication, and wide. Technical ingenuity, simultaneously improving together with the falling costs standards of radio reception.



growth of crime, and in population, road traffic, etc., is through the introduction of radio—the buses to points where the radio reception all round the world. Large portions of the short waves on these frequencies are already unusable, says Professor Gosling.

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The Saudis are starting up a new transmitter on a frequency allo-

operator wanted to use mobile transmissions from deep in the Urals, that they are proving highly destructive to short-wave customers were queuing.

The Home Office, to protect the radio spectrum, has restricted his licence to the radio's use in emergencies only. But if the Government is seriously

interested in improving public road services and wooing people away from the private car, radio affords more technological promise than more fancy ideas for "rapid transit."

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powerful (2MW) transmitter to broadcast on a frequency which has not been allocated.

The Saudis are starting up a new transmitter on a frequency allo-

sights of relief at the end of their "A" levels and this week the floral skirted and smartly tailored butterflies came together for a celebratory drink.

Thank goodness everybody's exam results were satisfactory. Indeed, half the class of eight had got A and B grades. Everybody was united in thanking our teacher—who was an honoured guest at the reunion in a pub near Welwyn Garden City.

Robin, Julie and Clare were engaged in earnest conversation with Pierre, our French teacher, when I came in. Paul, who had always been late for class, had not yet arrived. When he did turn up, half an hour after the appointed time, he was told in no uncertain terms to leave his motor cycling gear outside the pub!

In July we had all undergone the gruelling experience of sitting for and finally sitting a $\frac{1}{2}$ hour written French exam, split into three parts, and an oral. We had supported and encouraged one another and been supported and encouraged by our teacher.

For two of us nothing much had changed. Pierre will go on

explaining the vagaries of Cocteau; and I will continue to battle my way round Sainsbury's once a week and wage war on the dirt and grime which find refuge in my home and on my children. But the end of the college year had meant radical and drastic change for the others.

Julie had become a nurse at a London teaching hospital. She had already coped with the problems of a geriatric ward, seen a fellow student faint at her first sight of somebody else's blood, dealt with a bedpan and come to the firm conclusion that, despite her cleverness and academic success, she wanted to be a nurse and not a doctor.

Clare, the class beauty, and Robin had found jobs together at British Airways' West London Terminal. They were presently undergoing a comprehensive training course, which appeared to be being conducted by a computer, programmed by someone with a sense of humour—of a sort.

The tie up with Commercial

Union is a first for Scottish

Opera, too: the first time it has

had aid from a company based outside Scotland.

Scottish Opera was born and swept to its

present eminence on the tide of Scottish nationalism. Putting

money into Scotland's cultural

development was a convenient

way for companies to demon-

strate that their hearts were in

the right place, without coming

down too firmly on either side

of the political fence.

But the sensation was Paul.

High flying Paul, who smiled his apologies when he habitually turned up twenty minutes late for every lesson. He had scored two As and a B and was soon off to university. Meanwhile he was at the bakery, wrapping and packing sliced bread. "It's all the same, you know," he whispered confidently. "The stuff that costs 22p is the same as the 28p bread. We just put it in different wrappings."

He was getting £78 a week

on the night shift, he said, as he stood up to buy his round.

There was consternation all

round the table. The nurse was

getting only £20 and the poten-

tial British Airways executives

£38. I admitted to £4.60 family

allowance and Pierre looked

thoughtful. There was some-

thing wrong somewhere.

Contributors:

Michael Blanden,

Christopher Parkes,

Adrienne Gleeson

and Pat Walker

Economic Diary

Church House, Westminster (until September 15).

MONDAY—European Central Bankers begin two-day monthly meeting in Basle.

TUESDAY—Liberal Party Conference opens, Southport Theatre (until September 15).

Wednesday—Bank of England

quarterly bulletin will include

second quarter figures for UK

banking sector; financing of the

Central Government Borrowing

Requirement; and money stock.

FRIDAY—Usable steel production

(August).

Retail prices index (August).

Wednesday—Index of Industrial Production (July provisional).

Mr. Stanley Clinton Davis, Parlia-

mentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade, opens Commonwealth

Air Transport Council meeting.

Wednesday—Index of Industrial Production (July provisional).

FRIDAY—Usable steel production

(August).

Retail prices index (August).

Wednesday—Cyclical indicators for the UK economy (August).

0% gross income this year for original investors

... and the outstanding management group was (wait for it) M&G, which had two in the top 10 and no less than

59 in the top 25 trusts last year.

SUNDAY TELEGRAPH 1175

TWO WAYS TO INVEST

for M&G GROUP LTD THREE QUAYS TOWER HILL LONDON EC3R 6BQ

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PLEASE INVEST £ _____ in M&G HIGH INCOME FUND

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The Funds aim to provide an income at least 60% higher than the general index in general and capital performance over the years has been consistently better than average. At the latest buyout price for income units of £15.30 the estimated gross current yield is 6.05%.

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Contributions are made on 31st January and 31st July net of basic rate tax. The next distribution date for new investors will be 31st January 1979. You can buy or sell units on any business day. Contracts for purchases or sales will be due for settlement 2 or 3 weeks later. 11% commission is payable to accredited agents: Fruiterer Clydesdale Bank Limited. The Fund is a unit trust security and is authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade.

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TWO WAYS TO INVEST

As an alternative, or in addition to investing a capital sum, you can start a Regular Investment Plan through a life assurance policy with benefits linked to the M&G High Income Fund for as little as £12 a month. 8% to 94% depending on your starting age is invested except in the first two years when an additional 20 pence is retained to meet set-up expenses.

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COMPANY NEWS + COMMENT

Alfred Herbert loss reaches £2.4m

FOLLOWING THE warning in May that a loss seemed unavoidable for Alfred Herbert in 1978, the State-owned machine tool group has announced a pre-tax deficit of £2.4m for the first six months. The group, which has rescued a number of companies from collapse in 1974-75 with a Government injection of £25m cash, achieved a profit of £436,000 in the first half of 1977 but ran into losses of £672,000 in the second half.

John Buckley, chairman, described the results as "a serious setback" after the promise of recovery indicated by the group's position in the past two years.

Corrective action being taken will not become effective until the end of the year so losses will continue into the second half.

In addition substantial redundancy costs will be incurred in connection with the reorganisation at the Edowick, Coventry plant where it is planned to cut the workforce by a further 720.

Early last month Herbert shop stewards were warned that a further 900 jobs might be lost at this plant unless negotiations proceeded more rapidly and quickly on redundancy terms.

Sir John points out that the Coventry plant has been central to the group's problems for some time and it is here that the bulk of the loss has occurred. Once the plant is reorganised with productive capacity more related to the equipment held here, he said, the chairman says, can no longer be avoided.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED

	Current payment	Date of payment	Corre- sponding div.	Total for year	Total last year
A. and C. Black	int. 2	Nov. 10	18	44	25
Brechin Mines	24t	Oct. 21	0.7	—	1.5
Britannia	0.7	Dec. 8	0.88	1.47	1.25
Cray Electronic	0.96	Nov. 10	23	55	34
Kinross Mines	32t	Nov. 10	3	21	5
Leslie Gold Mines	1.4t	Nov. 10	1.38	1.37	1.25
LMS	1.17	Nov. 10	1.38	1.37	1.25
St. Helens Gold	1.17	Oct. 3	52	190	115
St. Helens Shakespeare	0.72	Nov. 10	47	129	86
Winton Mines	76t				

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awards. The policy of building for stock during what was believed to be the end of a long recession, together with scheduled production for what was forecast as an upturn, which did not materialise, led to the accumulation of high stocks and the commitment of very substantial funds.

Sir John points out that the Coventry plant has been central to the group's problems for some time and it is here that the bulk of the loss has occurred. Once the plant is reorganised with productive capacity more related to the equipment held here, he said, the chairman says, can no longer be avoided.

First half net profit of £1.09m, profits before tax of £213,000, earnings per share of 1.42p (3.89p) on increased capital. A final dividend of 0.956p makes a total of 1.456p compared with 1.22p previously.

In April, directors had forecast a final payment of 0.842p prior to Capital for Industry (formerly Spey Investments) taking a controlling interest of over 70 per cent.

The interim dividend is maintained at 2p—last year's total was 4.7p from pre-tax profits of £1.09m.

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Cray ahead at £0.61m

FOLLOWING THE first half increase from £20.700 to £213,000, profits before tax of Cray Electronics improved to £60.711 in the year ended April 30, 1978. Mr. Haines said that unless conditions improved, production resources of the company would have to be reduced again next year. Turnover amounted to £1.17m against £1.37m.

After tax of £66.237 (£136,000) earnings per share are shown at 1.42p (3.89p) on increased capital. A final dividend of 0.956p makes a total of 1.456p compared with 1.22p previously.

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From turnover of £1.17m against £

Union Oil to sell stake in Maruzen

By Richard Hanson

TOKYO, Sept. 8. MARUZEN OIL has agreed to buy back all of its shares held by Union Oil of the U.S., currently Maruzen's largest shareholder. Union holds \$5.7m shares in Maruzen. These are equivalent to about 20 per cent of all outstanding shares and are worth around \$50m at today's stock market close.

Maruzen's share price on the Tokyo Stock Exchange gained Y15 to a new high for the year of Y162 following reports of the buy back arrangement. Maruzen said the shares will be repurchased at a reasonable price, with companies affiliated with it like Kansai Oil and members of the Sanwa Bank business group absorbing them. Sanwa is a large shareholder and Maruzen's main bank. The transaction is expected to be completed either by the end of this year or next March.

Maruzen's purchase of the shares from Union Oil, which supplies roughly half of its oil needs, will leave the company nearly 100 per cent domestically owned, and perhaps qualify it for special concessions and other assistance from the Japanese Government. The liquidation of Union Oil's stock position won't change its business connections with Maruzen, according to a Maruzen spokesman.

Union Oil pumped funds into Maruzen in 1963 when the Japanese company was suffering from a shortage of capital and cost of constructing refinery facilities. In the initial stages Union Oil's share of Maruzen's capital amounted to about 33 per cent.

The agreement to sell the shares may have been influenced by the poor business results Maruzen has posted recently. In the year which ended March 31, net profit plunged to Y34m from Y5.135bn. Sales fell slightly by 13 per cent to Y877.36bn.

Gränges expects to move out of red in 1979

BY WILLIAM DULLFORCE

GRÄNGES, the Swedish metals and engineering group, is heading for a recovery following the disposal of its steel and mining operations.

Pre-tax losses for the first half of 1978 are Skr 132m (\$31.3m) against Skr 335m during the first half of 1977. Mr. Bo Abrahamsson, the new managing director, is confident of cutting losses for the whole of this year from close to Skr 800m in 1977 to under Skr 100m. He has also forecast that Gränges will show a profit in 1979.

First-half turnover was Skr 2.6bn (\$600m), including sales from stock to the new state-owned concern which acquired Gränges steel and mining operations. This compares with Skr 2.7bn. The operating loss

after depreciation was pulled back from Skr 222m to Skr 7m. This covered a loss of Skr 41m by the shipping fleet, which is now being sold off.

Net financial charges climbed Skr 18m to Skr 131m, as the group took up Skr 250m in new medium and long-term loans during the period. The borrowing requirement is expected to be much smaller during the second half with new debt commitments for the year as a whole reaching some Skr 360m.

By the end of 1978 Gränges should still have about Skr 300m in liquid assets. Investments during the first half amounted to Skr 79m and are expected to total about Skr 210m for the year as a whole, but a large part will be financed from a state credit facility for the record

structure of the NYBY stainless steel plant.

The disposal of Gränges' holding in the glass factories and the sale of real estate helped produce an extraordinary income of Skr 71m, which reduced the first half loss to Skr 6m before tax and appropriations, a reduction of over Skr 250m compared with the first six months of last year.

The sale of the steel and mining operations is estimated to have relieved the accounts by Skr 350-400m a year. Another cash drain, the shipping fleet, which lost Skr 184m last year, is now being eliminated. Of the 12 vessels owned by Gränges at the beginning of the year only three remain with three more under charter. The sale of the ships is not reflected in the half-year figures.

STOCKHOLM, Sept. 8.

Marseilles ship repair group to be wound up

By David White

PARIS, Sept. 8. A TEAM of receivers which has for five months been seeking a solution for the leading Marseilles ship repair group, Terrin, today announced that the 13 companies which comprise the group would be wound up.

The receivers' conclusion, presented to the Marseilles commercial tribunal, follows the rejection by employees of a takeover plan by M. Gilbert Fournier, chairman of a Normandy ship business, Chantiers du Havre. The plan involved 700 redundancies.

The first victims of today's

decisions were over 1,000 employees of Societe Provencale des Ateliers (SPAT), the pivot of the group, who were told they were being made redundant. The group employs 4,000 and a large number of sub-contractors in the region depend on it.

The liquidation of Terrin is

expected to bring bitter protests from labour organisations. Other repair yards, some of which have had orders cancelled because of uncertainty over the labour situation, are expected to close in the wake of Terrin.

M. Gaston Defferre, Socialist mayor of Marseille, warned yesterday of the possibility of a general strike in the port. France's largest and number-two European ship repairer, the Collin House Group, which includes Western Mining Corporation and North BH, the latter company has been buying ships recently in BH South.

The unlisted investments were shown in South's 1977 accounts at a cost of As152.6m.

Investment sale by BH South

BY JAMES FORTH

SYDNEY, Sept. 8. BH SOUTH, the mining and investment group, intends to raise As50m over the next three months through the sale of some of its major investments, to help overcome serious liquidity problems. South has a substantial investment portfolio in listed and unlisted companies, which were shown in the 1977 accounts at As192m.

The holdings in listed companies include 2.1m shares in Asutralian Phosphate, Paper Mills, The Beach Petroleum, 2.1m EZT Industries, 2.8m Western Mining Corporation and 572,000 North Broken Hill. The listed portfolio had a book value of As10m but the current market value is around As19m.

The biggest investments are in unlisted companies and include 12.45m shares in the aluminium group, Alcoa of Australia, or 16.5 per cent of the equity, 60 per cent of Electrolytic Refining and Smelting, 20 per cent of Kembla Coal and Coke, 19.4 per cent of Metal Manufacturers, and 12.5 per cent of Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation.

Many of these listed investments are also held by associated companies, known generally as the Collin House Group, which includes Western Mining Corporation and North BH. The latter company has been buying ships recently in BH South.

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Gain at Carlton United

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

CARLTON and United to the Government. The average pre-tax profit of the Australian brewing companies during this period was As874m.

It was important to note that national beer consumption was only just showing an indication of returning to the 1975 volume.

In fact, the volume sold in the year to June was only 1.5 per cent higher than in 1975. "In

the view of this minor rate of recovery — quite recent and hesitant — it must be presumed that following the new excise increase national beer consumption will again show a downturn," the directors said.

The higher earnings were realised on a sales increase of 0.2 per cent from As482m to As489m. Moreover, the directors hit out at the recent increases in excise in the 1978-1979 Federal Budget, which they expect will lead to a drop in beer consumption. The directors said the Government now expected to raise almost As1bn from the excise tax on beer alone.

The excise rate had doubled since 1975 and now accounted for 62 per cent of the price of packaged beer and 76 per cent of bulk beer prices.

The directors said that between July, 1972 and June, 1978 beer drinkers paid As3.56bn in excise

SoCal-Amex probe still active

By David Lascelles

NEW YORK, Sept. 8. THE FEDERAL Trade Commission confirmed today that an anti-trust investigation it opened into the 1975 acquisition by Standard Oil of California (SoCal) of 20 per cent of Amex, the large mineral and natural resources concern, was still "open and active."

Yesterday, Amex announced that it had rejected a bid by SoCal of \$1.55bn, one of the largest ever seen — to increase its stake to 100 per cent, partly on the ground that it had no present anti-trust problems. SoCal parried with a statement that the FTC had not raised any objection to the original purchase.

An FTC spokesman said today that it was too early to determine whether SoCal's new move would make any difference to the investigation.

Wall Street reacted to SoCal's \$57 a share offer by pushing Amex up \$4 to over \$50, though it is still far from clear what SoCal's next move will be. The company indicated last night that it was considering alternatives, without elaborating further. But the general belief is that neither SoCal nor Amex will want the matter to rest now that SoCal has shown its hand.

EAB settles claims

European American Banking Corporation (EAB) has settled the claims of the law firms brought against it by its workers brought over on loans to a Greek shipping group, the Colacotronis Group, reports Stewart Fleming from New York. The banks sought recovery on the grounds that in syndicating loans for the shipping group's company, the SoCal's phosphate venture in North-West Queensland. Production of phosphate rock was terminated on June 30 this year. The directors said that the major reductions in group liabilities and interest payments was being undertaken in the long-term interests of the group.

South began seeking a partner for the phosphate operation in 1977, and was prepared to offer a 30 per cent to 40 per cent stake in the project. The mine was closed after the Government rejected requests for aid to enable it to stay in production.

The first victims of today's

decisions were over 1,000 employees of Societe Provencale des Ateliers (SPAT), the pivot of the group, who were told they were being made redundant. The group employs 4,000 and a large number of sub-contractors in the region depend on it.

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Kockums in Government talks

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

THE chairman of Kockums, Mr. Nils-Hugo Hallenborg, confirmed today that he recently discussed with Mr. Nils Asasing, the Minister of Industry, the conditions and framework for the shipbuilding group's future activities.

At the end of May the Kockums' shareholders approved the 1977 accounts despite the auditors' reservations about the evaluation of assets and the provisions made for losses. To confirm to current market prices, it was stated, the claims would have had to be written down by some Skr 11bn (\$250m). Since then the shipping situation and the second-hand market for vessels have not improved. Kockums has also not found a purchaser for the two large LNG tankers it is building on its own account.

The Government is due to submit a new shipyards' Bill to parliament later this month. This will cover the remaining major Swedish yards, now gathered in Svenska Varv, the state shipbuilding company. Mr. Hallenborg clarified Kockums' critical

situation to the minister with the hope, it is understood, of preventing the government proposing in the Bill any action which could discriminate against his company.

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The Swedish government has guaranteed about Skr 1.3bn of the debt Kockums has shouldered, in order to refinance its credits to shipowners. In June the State guaranteed a \$200m credit facility organised by Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken and its European affiliates to finance the gas carriers.

Jardine Securities
JARDINE SECURITIES, the listed investment associate of Jardine, Matheson and Co., increased its net revenue after tax by 11.8 per cent to HK\$49.7m (\$10.3m) in the year to June 30, writes Ron Richardson from Hong Kong.

Subject to final audit, the net asset value of Jardine Securities' on June 30 was HK\$ 907m.

WARDAGE COMMODITY FUND
1st July 1978. £10.29. 10.72.
WCF MANAGERS LIMITED
P.O. Box 73
St. Helier, Jersey - 0534 20591/3
Next dealing 29th September, 1978

A GERMAN businessman resident in Switzerland, Mr. Herman Krages, has sold a 12 per cent shareholding in West Germany's fourth largest chemical group, Schering AG.

The parcel of shares, which has a current stock market value of \$30m, was sold to Deutsche Bank. The transaction took place with the knowledge of Schering, and the bank has already placed a portion of the shares with institutions. Deutsche Bank will eventually resell the entire holding.

In 1977 Schering made net profits of DM 68m on sales of DM 1.2bn. The company is the leading manufacturer in Germany of pharmaceuticals, and claims to have a dominant share of the world market for oral contraceptives.

Union Bank of Switzerland expects to report slightly lower earnings for 1978 than last year.

Chairman Philippe de Week reported to Reuter. He says no specific detail: first half earnings were running below those of the same period of 1977.

The Swedish government has guaranteed about Skr 1.3bn of the debt Kockums has shouldered, in order to refinance its credits to shipowners. In June the State guaranteed a \$200m credit facility organised by Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken and its European affiliates to finance the gas carriers.

The decision on Terrin followed the announcement in July that 1,300 of the 6,000 workers at the nearby La Ciotat shipyards, controlled by Arab interests, would be made redundant.

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The decision on Terrin followed the announcement in July that 1,3



FT SHARE INFORMATION SERVICE

BRITISH FUNDS

High Low Stock Price + or - Net Yield Red.

1978 U.S. S & D M prices exclude inv. S premium

97 94 97 94

"Shorts" (Lives up to Five Years)

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INDUSTRIALS—Continued

INSURANCE—Continued

PROPERTY—Continued

INV. TRUSTS—Continued

FINANCE, LAND—Continued

THE SCOTCH OF A LIFETIME

The Buchanan Blend

MINES—Continued

CENTRAL AFRICAN

AUSTRALIAN

TINS

COPPER

MISCELLANEOUS

NOTES

TEXTILES

RUBBERS AND SISALS

COPPER

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Cruising means



MAN OF THE WEEK

A firmer hand on the helm

BY IAN HARGREAVES

KENNETH James William Mackay is a copybook earl. At 80 he has behind him Elton, Trinity, the Lancets and a business career of solid eminence in the former colonies and in the City. His hobbies, be lists impeccably as shooting, stalking, hunting and fishing.

But yesterday Lord Inchcape was more than a little indignant about the fuss caused in certain quarters of the City by the news that after five years as non-executive chairman of P & O, he is establishing his presence on the bridge more firmly by becoming chief executive as well.

Partly his indignation represents a shy and quiet man's straightforward dislike of fuss. But he also insists that the quest for wider motives behind the change is unnecessary, almost one might say impertinent.

"I just feel that for a company and an industry which is generally depressed and facing great difficulties than a non-executive role is unsuitable for the chairman," he says.

There may, he adds, be some minor management reorganisation as P & O adapts to his own increased presence alongside the continued presence of Mr. Sandy Marshall as managing director, but no further changes are planned in the membership of the board or the structure of the company.

The City, naturally, has not been short of more colourful conjectures. According to these theories, Lord Inchcape has been



LORD INCHCAPE

No hidden motives behind the change

manoeuvred in by the institutions to stop the rot in P & O's profits, has reassured himself to quiet internal boardroom wrangling, or is plotting the once-mooted convergence of the Inchcape Group and P & O.

Lord Inchcape gives the hypotheses short shrift. He also says that he has not changed his views about the usefulness of non-executive directors either as a result of his experience at P & O or at Burmah Oil, where he and three other non-executive directors resigned when the company's huge financial problems became apparent.

In what has been a trying week, he also had to reassure stockholders at the annual meeting yesterday of the Inchcape Group, of which he is also executive chairman, that his new job at P & O would not mean him neglecting Inchcape and the £1.6bn of business its myriad of trading companies carried out last year. He does expect, however, to be spending more time in the piece of Leadenhall Street owned by P & O than the nearby bit of St. Mary Axe owned by Inchcape.

Tussle

This week's events are not, of course, the first time that Lord Inchcape has moved firmly and publicly in response to a crisis in contrast to his preferred style of delegation and devolution.

Inchcape became chairman of P & O after one of the most celebrated take-over tussles in recent years, when the shipping company first beat off an approach by Bovis and then within two years bought out the property and banking group.

The question of the moment is, he accepts, how P & O is to deal with the shipping crisis which dashed the group's first half pre-tax profits from £2.6m to £1.1m.

He discloses no instant changes of policy, but argues that the British shipping industry is unlikely to regain the size and status it enjoyed prior to the slump. Does that mean more diversification for P & O out of ships? For the moment, Inchcape is not saying, but is hurt that some newspapers and commentators have in the past few days dubbed him a "non-shipping man" in contrast to Mr. Marshall.

Perhaps the chairman and chief executive of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company can at least win acceptance of that point.

FINANCIAL TIMES

Saturday September 9 1978

STRATHSPEY
100% Highland Malt Whisky
"Egidith E Suas
Ur Misneachd"

Leyland talks called over toolmakers' strike threat

BY NICK GARNETT, LABOUR STAFF

AN EMERGENCY meeting of the BL Cars Council, the highest tier in the company's participation structure, has been hurriedly convened for Monday to discuss the implications for Leyland of the threatened toolmakers' strike.

Management decided to

arrange the meeting late last

night after the series of talks

this week between union officials

and striking toolmakers at SU

Fuel Systems, broke down yester-

day in some disarray.

Expulsion

Leaders of the 32 toolmakers, who are seeking a 27 a week pay

increase to bring them to the

level of toolmakers at the Rover

plant in Solihull, said last night

that they would still appear at an

Amalgamated Union of Engi-

neering Workers district committee

meeting in Birmingham on Tues-

day, to which they have been

summoned.

The talks this week, however,

have made virtually no pro-

gress towards settling their pay

parity dispute. If that remains

involved the SU toolmakers, Mr.

Ken Cure, the Birmingham East

district secretary, and Mr. Bill

Jordan, the union's divisional

organiser ended in bitter accusa-

tions.

Mr. George Regan, the SU

strike leader said they were no

nearer finding common ground

with the company than that sug-

gestions that they were made a

"special case" had founded.

He was still hopeful that full-

time officials would continue

negotiations with the company.

Mr. Cure said that on Thurs-

day the strike leaders had agreed

not to oppose a move to work

recommendation that would have

been made to a meeting of the

32. The leaders had subse-

quently reversed that decision.

Suspended

In the group's other major

trouble spot, Leyland Vehicles

has told shop stewards at its

October.

The only alteration to that

timetable, other than through

further negotiations between

management and union officials

could possibly occur in the pro-

cessing of the expulsions. If the

men appealed, any executive

ruling that they remained in the

union until the appeal was heard

would defer the ultimate decision

until an appeal court hearing in

October.

The public spending issue will

have to be resolved first. Officials

have been working on a series

of options within the overall

limit so that Mr. Joel Baruau,

the Chief Secretary, can report

back to the Cabinet within the

next few weeks. (This exercise

is the key economic decisions

within the next couple of

months are:

1—Public spending. The

Cabinet agreed in July to retain

the 2 per cent overall limit on

the annual growth of the volume

of public spending set out in

last January's White Paper, but

Ministers deferred decisions on

the distribution between pro-

grammes.

2—EEC currency stabilisation.

Following the Bremen summit in

early July a timetable was

agreed for implementation early

next year requiring decisions by

Finance Ministers in the next

two months and by Heads of

Government in early December.

3—Domestic monetary policy.

Decisions will have to be taken

this autumn on whether to con-

tinued from Page 1

Scornful Thatcher

The Government was deter-

mined to prove that inflation was

under control and that the

foundation had been laid for

employment to fall steadily.

Despite this enthusiastic

endorsement, the wisdom of the

Prime Minister's decision against

an autumn poll was cast in doubt

by many Labour MPs who feel

that he may have let slip the

party's best chance of victory.

While senior Transport House

organisers were putting a brave

face on the antiflame, Mr. Tom

Jackson, the new TUC chairman

said in Brighton that he was dis-

appointed by the postponement

of the poll.

He spoke of the risk of con-

frontation over the five per cent

Phase Four guideline in the

coming months.

Conservative leaders insisted

that, despite the false start, their

posters and cinema cam-

paigns would continue, although

Central Office has used its quota

of party political television

broadcasts for this year.

Lord Thorneycroft, the Tory

chairman, promised "vigorous

and energetic activity" to Con-

tinental Europe yesterday. The

Tories spent an estimated

£500,000—compared with £100,000

by Transport House before Mr.

Callaghan ended the election

Dearer home loans still likely later this year

BY JOHN BRENNAN, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

BUILDING SOCIETY chiefs

have been under growing pres-

sure to boost their net receipts

by making investment rates more

competitive.

The problem of attracting more

investment money, which is now

coming to societies at the rate of

£200m a month, was

accentuated last week by

increases in returns on National

Savings investments.

The societies' council is pres-

sing on with informal lobbying